

ANOTHER CASTLE

ANDREW WHEELER

PAULINA GANUCHEAU



"A feminist fantasy adventure that
overturns genre conventions at every
opportunity." —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

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WRITTEN BY **Andrew Wheeler**

ILLUSTRATED AND COLORED BY **Paulina Ganucheau**

LETTERED BY **Jenny Vy Tran**

COVER BY **Paulina Ganucheau**

ORIGINAL EDITION EDITED BY **Ari Yarwood**

NEW EDITION EDITED BY **Desiree Rodriguez**

DESIGNED BY **Hilary Thompson**



James Lucas Jones, president & publisher
Charlie Chu, e.v.p. of creative & business development
Steve Ellis, s.v.p. of games & operations
Alex Segura, s.v.p. of marketing & sales
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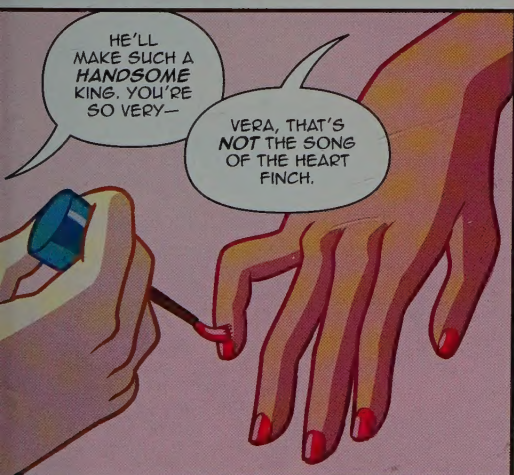
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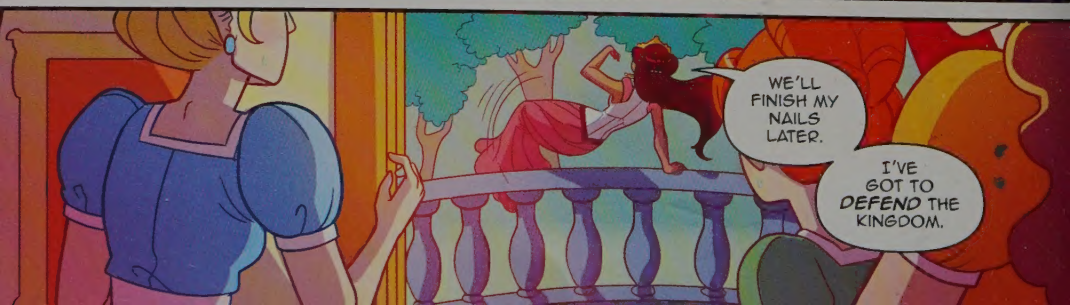


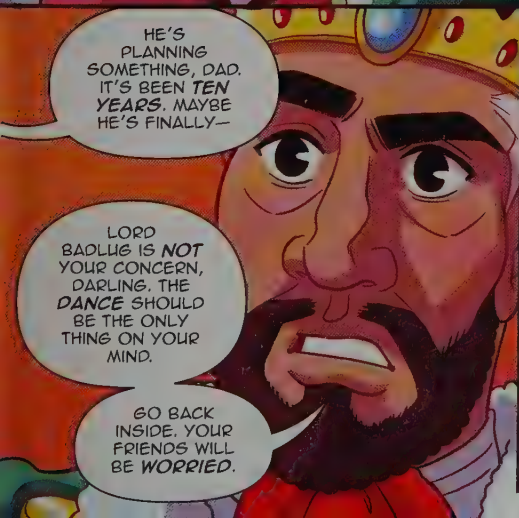
CHAPTER ONE

The Kingdom of Beldora.

The reign of King
Tomás the True.







ARTEMISIA!
MISTY! YOU ARE
THE PRINCESS
OF BELDORA! THIS
IS NOT PROPER
BEHAVIOR.

YOU
WERE THE ONE
WHO MADE SURE
I LEARNED TO
FIGHT.

FOR
SELF-DEFENSE!

I SHOULDN'T
NEED TO REMIND
YOU OF THE HIGH
RATES OF PRINCESS
ABDUCTIONS—

YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
PUT YOURSELF
IN DANGER'S
WAY.

YOU HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES.
TO RULE.
TO SERVE.

TO SMILE. TO
WAVE. TO MARRY
SOME GUY SO HE
CAN BE KING.

BUT I'M
NOT A QUEEN YET.
I'M NO-ONE'S
WIFE TODAY.

THERE'S
PLENTY OF TIME
FOR RIBBON
CLIPPINGS AND
DUMB PARADES.

MISTY,
GET DOWN!
THAT IS A MAGIC
SWORD! NOT A
TOY!

I KNOW
ALL ABOUT
LEVELER,
DAD.

THE ONLY
SWORD THAT
CAN KILL LORD
BADLUG.

SO WHAT,
YOU'RE GOING
TO MARCH INTO
GRIMOIRE AND
BEHEAD HIM
YOURSELF?

SOMEONE
SHOULD.

WHERE IS IT
WRITTEN THAT A
PRINCESS CAN'T
FIGHT FOR HER
KINGDOM?

IN DON
DIEGO'S BOOK
OF CONDUCT.

THE BOOK
YOU USE TO
PROP OPEN YOUR
WINDOW.

The forests of Beldora.

STUPID RULES.
STUPID KINGDOM.
WHY CAN'T I HUNT
SHADELINGS? MY
WHOLE LIFE IS
DRESSES AND DANCES
AND CARRIAGE RIDES.

AND I
LIKE DRESSES
AND DANCES AND
CARRIAGE RIDES.
BUT IS THAT ALL I
GET?

PRINCES
GET ARMIES,
AND BATTLES WITH
MONSTERS. PRINCES
GET TO DO **WHATEVER**
THEY WANT.



YOU ARE
MESSING WITH
THE **WRONG**
PRINCESS,
PAL!



UH...
HI MISTY.

PETE.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE? I ALMOST
MISTOOK YOU FOR
A **SHADELING**.

OR A
SHEEP.



I'M NOT
A **SHEEP**.
MISTY, I'M A
WOLF.

SURE YOU
ARE, PETE.
REAL TOUGH
GUY.

GO BACK TO
THE **PALACE**,
BEFORE YOU
GET **HURT**.



I CAME
TO MAKE
SURE YOU'RE
SAFE.

WE'RE
PROBABLY
GOING TO GET
MARRIED, SO
I THOUGHT—

UGH.

LOOK
AT THAT.





DON'T WORRY! I CAN TAKE THEM!

GO GET HELP, PETE.



I CAN TAKE THEM.

YEARSH!



THEY'RE ONLY GOBLINS.

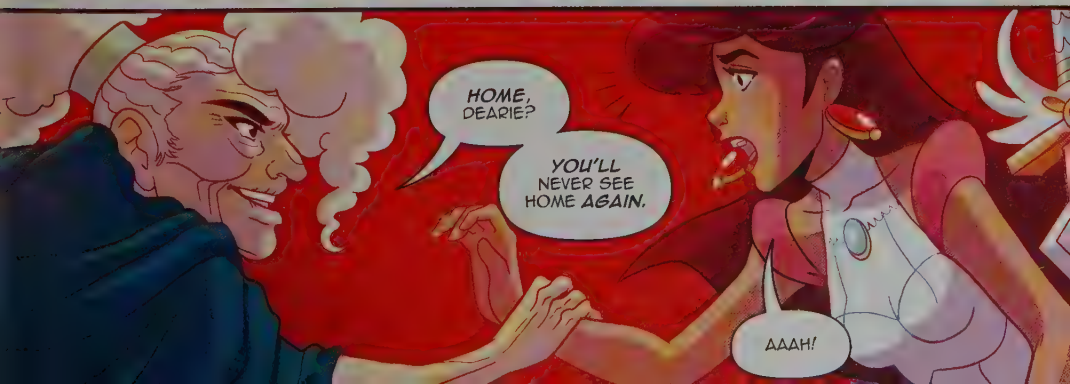
WURBLE!



I GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH TO 'EM.

A-BOO-HOO. A-BOO-HOO HOO.

HEY? LITTLE GIRL? YOU'RE SAFE NOW. WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME.



HOME, DEARIE?

YOU'LL NEVER SEE HOME AGAIN.

AAAAH!



GRRROOOOAAARRR!

COME
HERE, BRUTUS!
THERE'S A
GOOD BOY!

CONGRATS,
GIRLIE. YOU'RE
COMING TO
GRIMOIRE TO BE
LORD BADLUG'S
BRIDE!

NEVER!



PETE,
GET OUT OF HERE.
I TOLD YOU TO
GO GET HELP.

SWAP
SWORDS, MISTY.
I COULD KILL
THAT THING IF I
HAD YOUR
SWORD.

COME ALONG
NICELY, LITTLE
ONE, AND MAYBE I
WON'T BURN YOUR
PRETTY BOY
THERE.

OR YOUR
FORESTS.

OR YOUR
FATHER.

THE KINGDOM.

IF BAOLUS
GETS THIS
SWORD, HE'LL BE
UNSTOPPABLE.
HE'LL DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

GO, PETE.
RUN, TAKE LEVELER
AND GET AWAY
FROM HERE AS
FAST AS YOU
CAN.

MISTY!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

LEAVE MY
PEOPLE ALONE,
WITCH, AND I'LL
DO AS YOU
ASK.

GOOD GIRL.
SMART GIRL.
KNOW YOUR
PLACE, DO YOUR
DUTY.

STEP INTO
BRUTUS'S MOUTH,
LITTLE ONE. HE'LL
FLY YOU THERE
SAFE.



"ON DUTY.

"THE FUNCTION
OF A PRINCESS
IS PROPRIETY.

"IT IS HER
PLACE TO BE
COMPASSIONATE,
KIND—



"—AND
OBEDIENT.

"THE FUTURE
OF A KINGDOM
MAY DEPEND
ON HER
CONDUCT—



"HER
MANNERS—

"HER
GRACE—



"PRINCES
CAN WIN
WARS—

"BUT
PRINCESSES
CAN WIN THE
PEACE."

—DON
DIEGO'S
BOOK OF
CONDUCT



I'LL SAVE
YOU, PRINCESS
MISTY! DON'T
YOU WORRY!

I'LL SAVE
YOU!

The Kingdom of Grimoire.
The reign of
Badlug the Terrible.



SO...
HOW WAS THE
FLIGHT? NOT TOO
ROUGH, I HOPE?





OH, HE'S
HERE!

ARE
YOU READY TO
MEET HIM?

ANNOUNCING
LORD BADLUG
THE TERRIBLE.

THE KING
ETERNAL.

THE CRUEL
FIST.

THE
MASTER WITH A
THOUSAND EYES.
(NOT LITERALLY.)

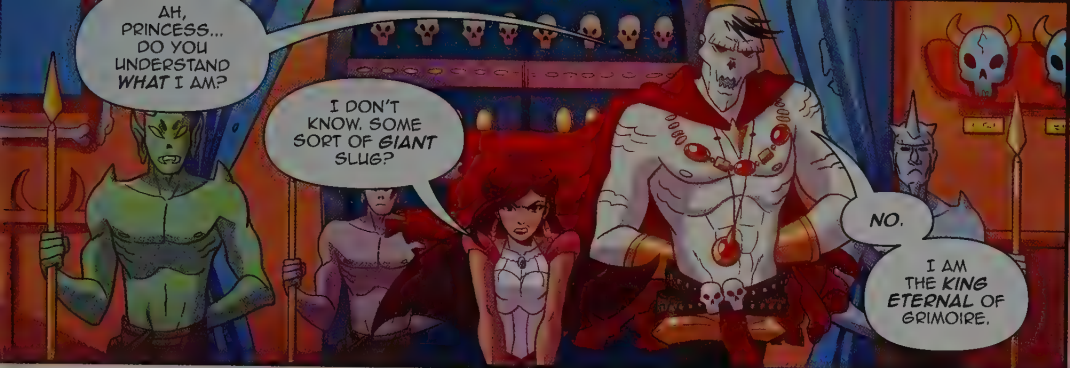
THE BRAZEN
GUEST.
THE DAMP FOG.
(CEREMONIAL
TITLES.)

AND BEST
OF ALL, YOUR
FUTURE
HUSBAND.

SO
LUCKY.

WELCOME
TO GRIMOIRE, MY
QUEEN.

I AM
NOT YOUR
QUEEN.



AH, PRINCESS...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND
WHAT I AM?

I DON'T
KNOW. SOME
SORT OF GIANT
SLUG?

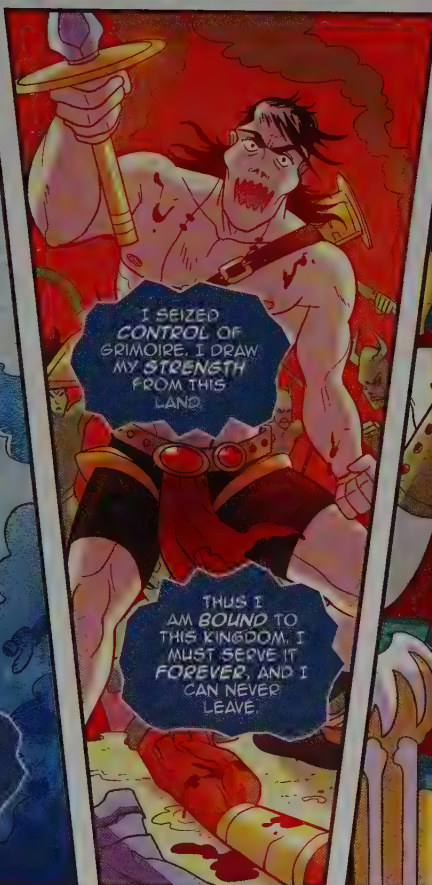
NO.

I AM
THE KING
ETERNAL OF
GRIMOIRE.



I GAVE
MY SOUL TO
DARK FORCES IN
EXCHANGE FOR
LIFE EVERLASTING.

THAT
COMPACT MADE
ME SOMETHING
MORE THAN A
MAN.



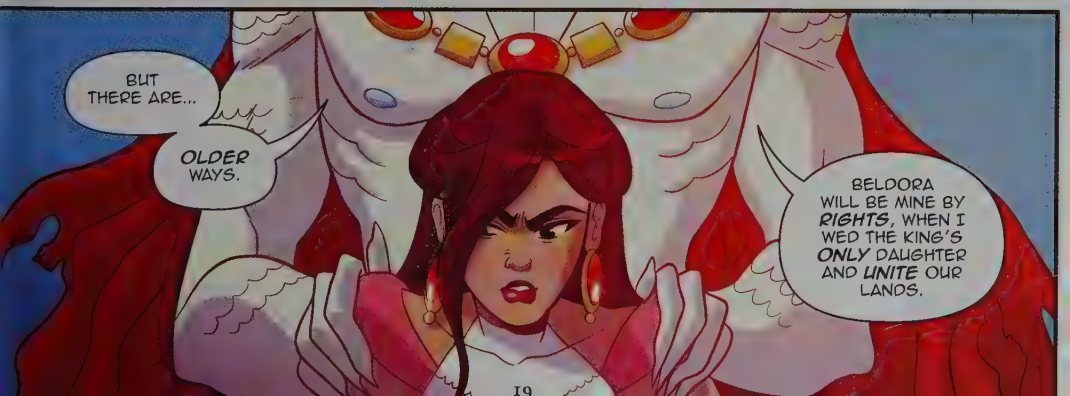
I SEIZED
CONTROL OF
GRIMOIRE. I DRAW
MY STRENGTH
FROM THIS
LAND.

THUS I
AM BOUND TO
THIS KINGDOM. I
MUST SERVE IT
FOREVER, AND I
CAN NEVER
LEAVE.



IMMORTALITY
COMES AT A
COST.

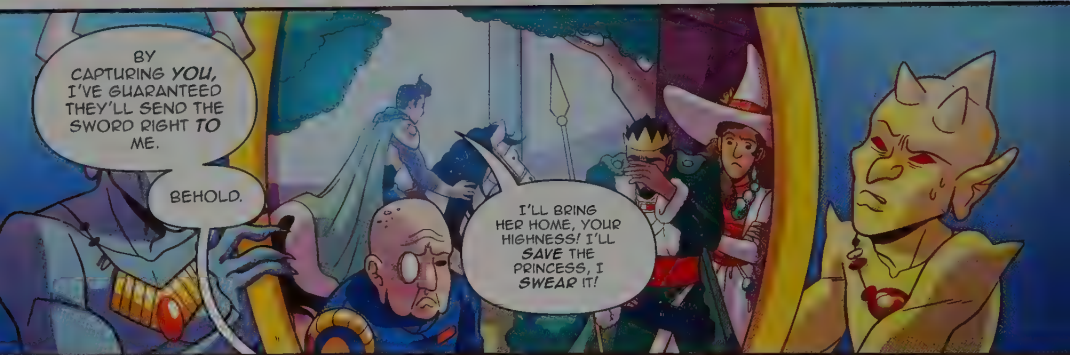
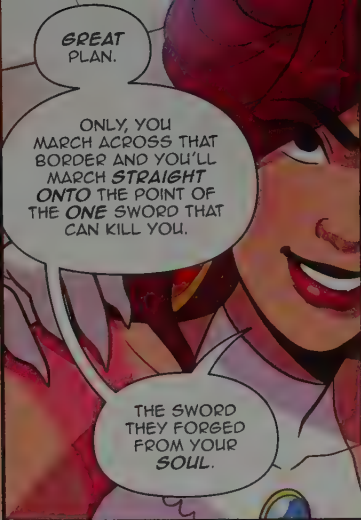
I HUNGER
FOR MORE, YET I
CANNOT CROSS MY
OWN BORDERS. I
CANNOT INVADE YOUR
FATHER'S LAND.



BUT
THERE ARE...

OLDER
WAYS.

BELODORA
WILL BE MINE BY
RIGHTS. WHEN I
WED THE KING'S
ONLY DAUGHTER
AND UNITE OUR
LANDS.





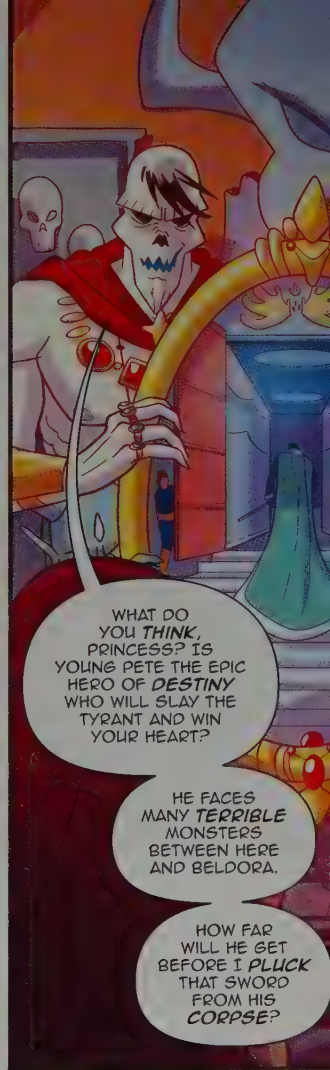
PRINCE PETER, YOU ARE THE CHOSEN CHAMPION OF BELDORA. ONLY YOU CAN SAVE THE PRINCESS.

BRING HER HOME SAFE AND SHE WILL BE YOUR BRIDE, AND YOU WILL INHERIT OUR KINGDOM!

SURE THING, POPS!



IT LOOKS LIKE *SOMEONE* IS GETTING MARRIED, WHETHER *SOMEONE* LIKES IT OR NOT.



WHAT DO YOU *THINK*, PRINCESS? IS YOUNG PETE THE EPIC HERO OF *DESTINY* WHO WILL SLAY THE TYRANT AND WIN YOUR HEART?

HE FACES MANY *TERRIBLE* MONSTERS BETWEEN HERE AND BELDORA.

HOW FAR WILL HE GET BEFORE I *PLUCK* THAT SWORD FROM HIS *CORPSE*?



AH. WYRMOTHER, HOW MANY SHADELING SPIES DO WE HAVE *INSIDE* THE PALACE?

NONE, MY LORD!

LET US WORK ON THAT.



I WILL NOT *FAIL* YOU, MY DARLING ARTEMISIA. I WON'T LOSE YOU AS WELL.



KNOCK!

KNOCK!

HELLO,
ANYONE HOME?
I BROUGHT
YOU SOME
SCONES.



WHO ARE
YOU?



HI! I'M
FOGMOTH, AND
I'LL BE YOUR
JAILOR FOR THIS
CAPTIVITY.

SORRY,
I'M NEW, SO...
WELL... NOT NEW.
HE NORMALLY
KILLS ALL THE
PRISONERS, SO I
HAVEN'T REALLY
DONE THIS
BEFORE.

I HAVE
A LOT OF
FREE TIME.

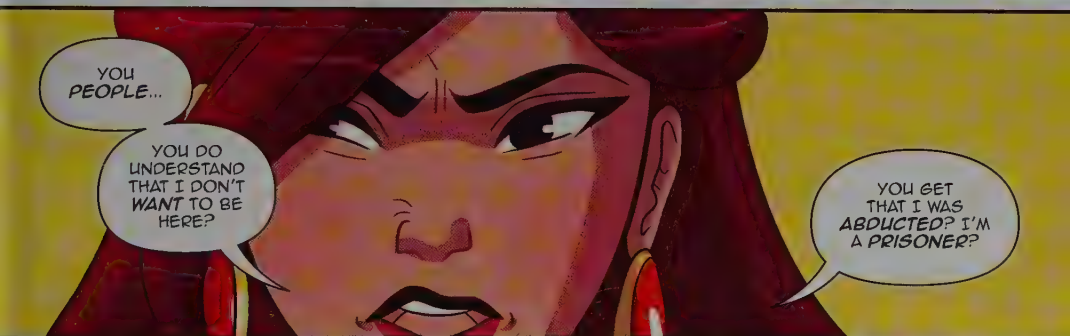
I MOSTLY
BAKE.

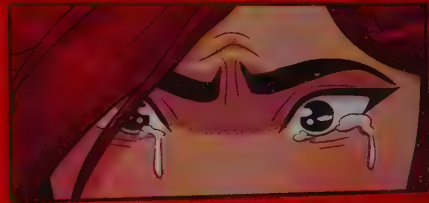
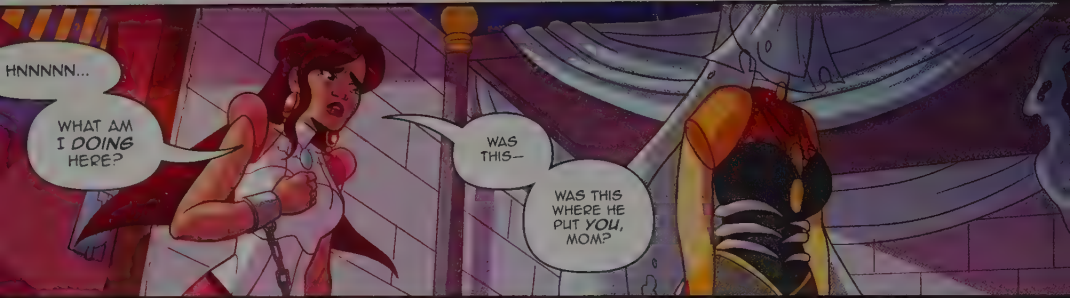
SCONE?



HELLOOOOO?
ANYONE HOME?

HI! WE
MET BEFORE;
I'M GOREA. YOUR
ATTENDANT? I
THOUGHT YOU'D
LIKE TO SEE YOUR
WEDDING
DRESS.







I GET IT, MOM.

HE MADE YOU THE SAME OFFER. BE HIS BRIDE. GIVE HIM BELDORA.

WEAR THIS UGLY...



HUH.

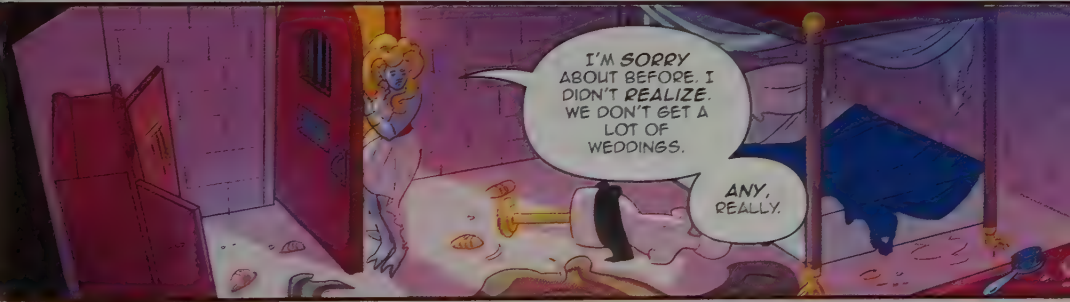
VELVET AS SLICK AS SNAKESKIN.



LACE THAT'S STRONGER THAN STEEL.



PRINCESS MISTY? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER? IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I COME IN?



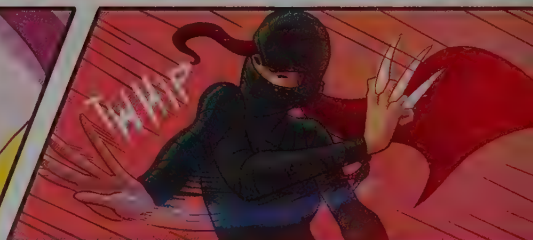
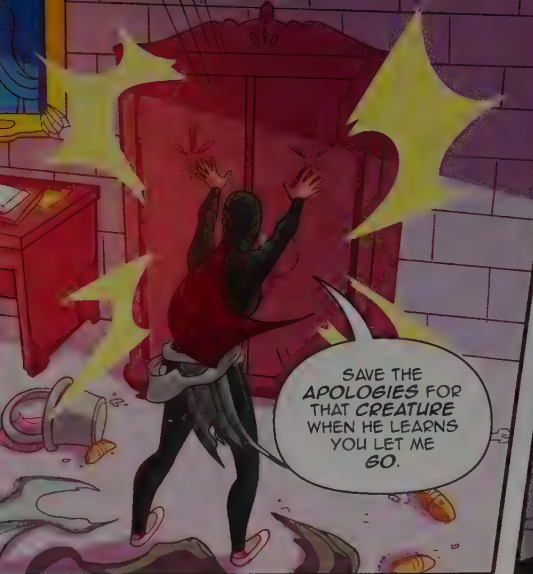
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE. I DIDN'T REALIZE WE DON'T GET A LOT OF WEDDINGS.

ANY, REALLY.



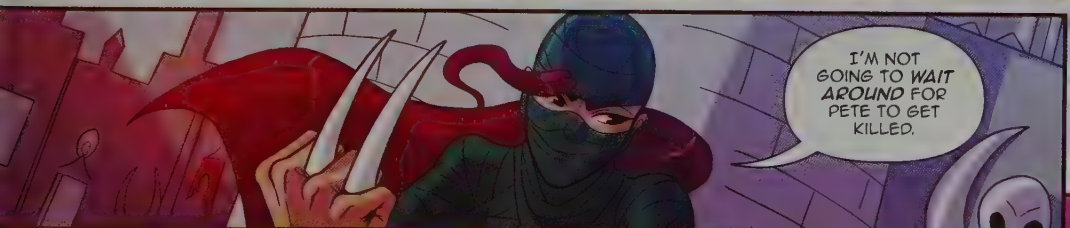
NOW I'M WONDERING IF...

ARE YOU HIDING, PRINCESS? I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO—





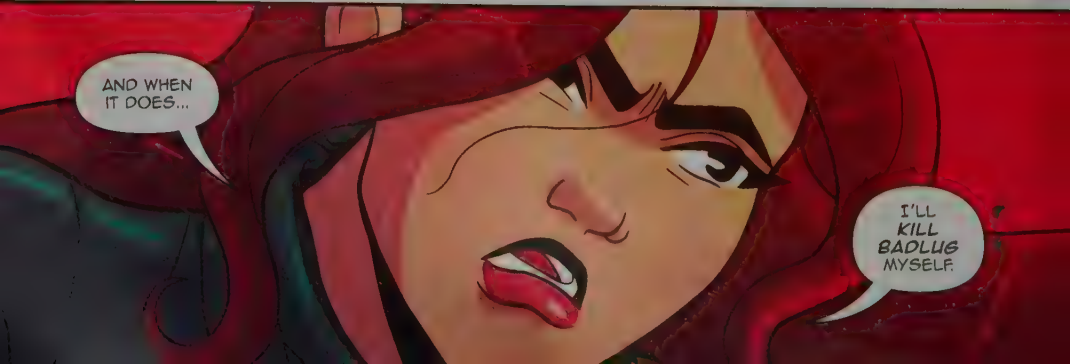
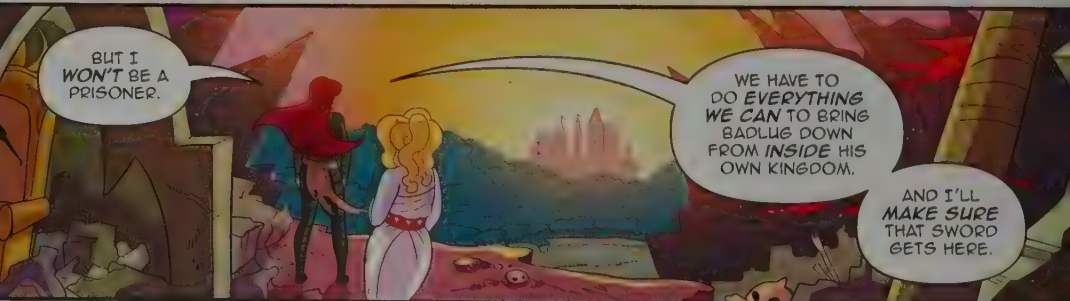
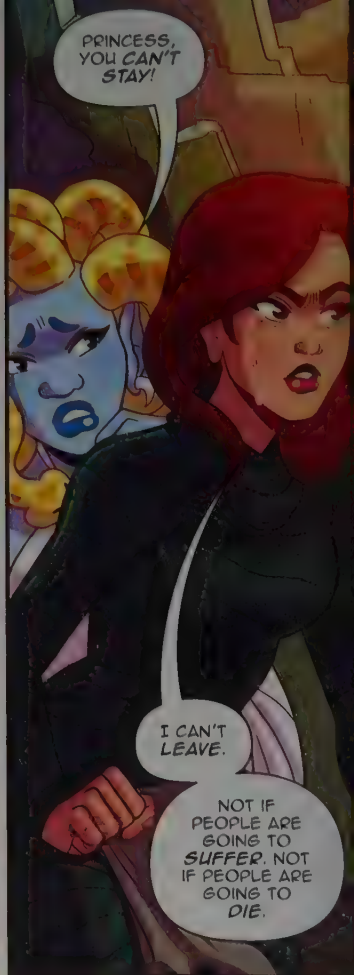
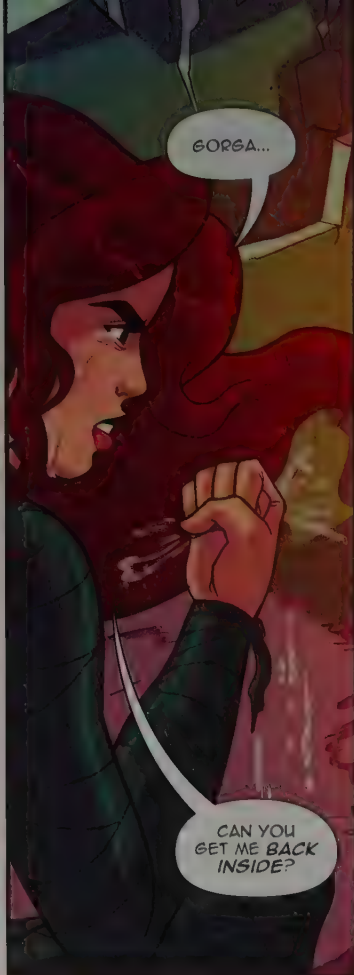
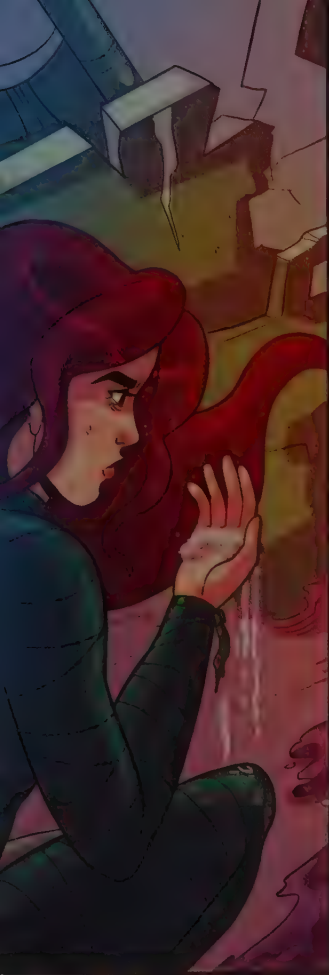
PRINCESS
MISTY,
PLEASE!





ANOTHER
CASTLE?

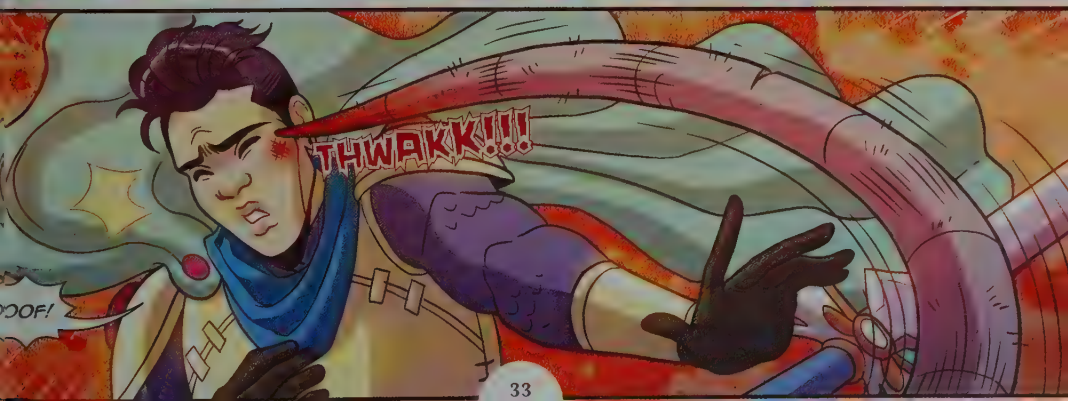






CHAPTER TWO

The Vale of Rattro.
The lair of the Verminotaur







"OH!
LOOK AT
THAT."

"HUH. HUH.
HUH."

"THE PRINCE
LIVES."



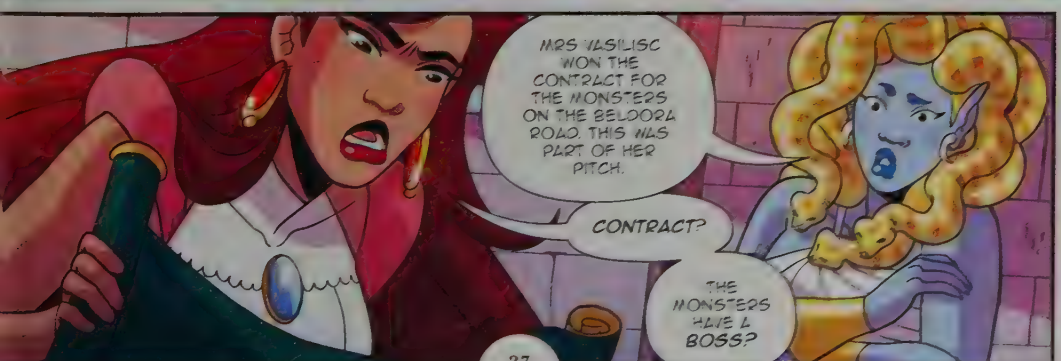
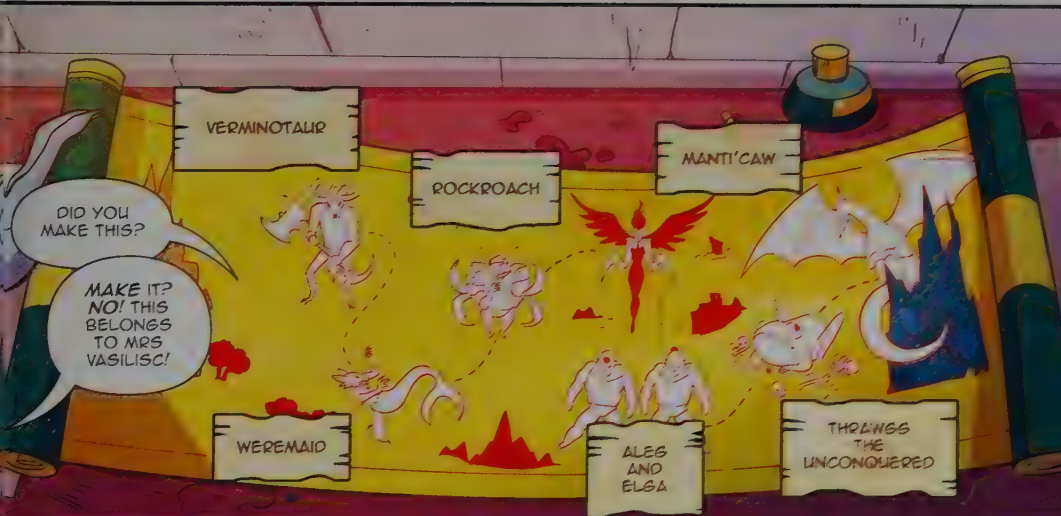
"NEVER MIND.
WE'LL GET HIM
NEXT TIME."

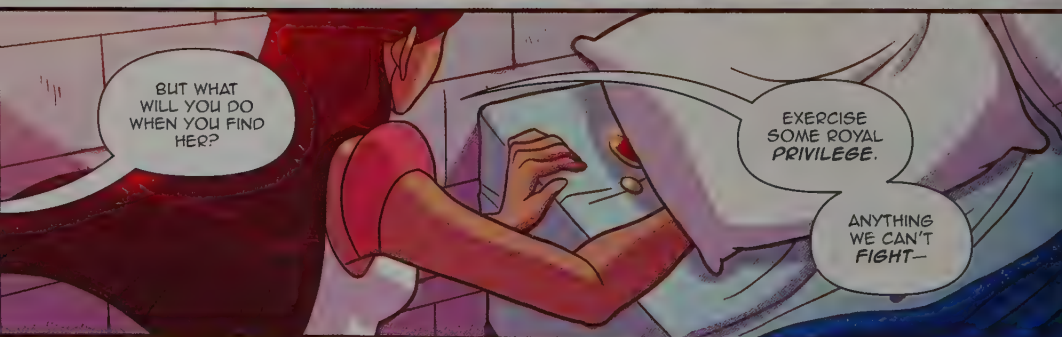
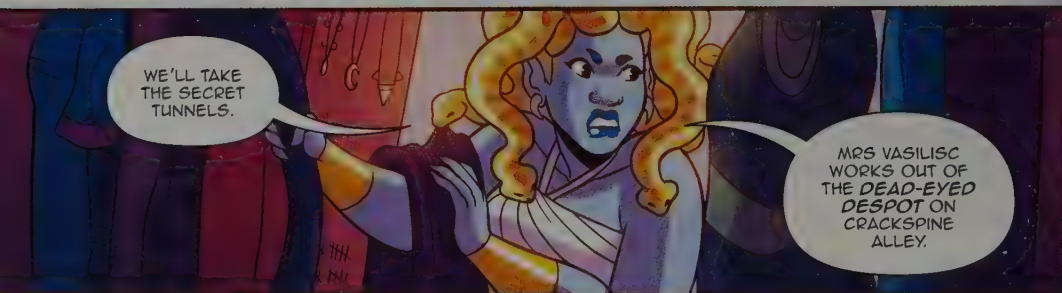
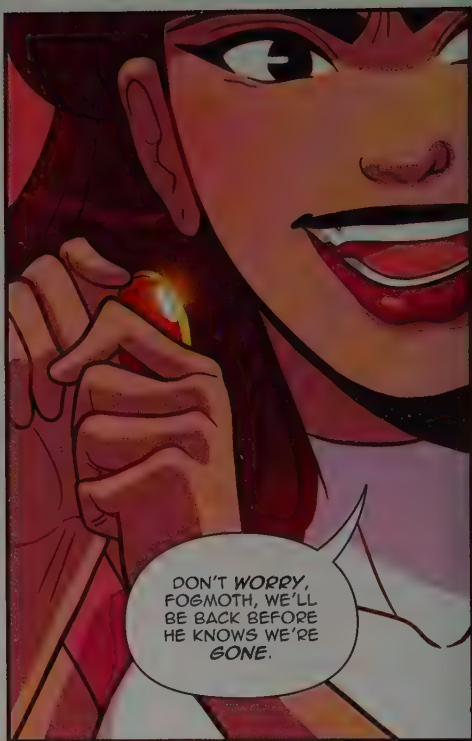
"I'LL KEEP
THE MIRROR HERE,
SO YOU WON'T MISS
IT WHEN HIS HEAD IS
CLEAVED FROM HIS
BODY."



"I WANT
YOU TO KNOW
THE **MOMENT**
YOUR FATE WAS
SEALED."







"NESTLED IN THE BLACK
KANKER MOUNTAINS, THE
KINGDOM OF GRIMOIRE
IS RICH IN MAGIC—

"AND POOR
IN MOST OTHER
RESOURCES."

"BOASTING AN UNUSUALLY
HIGH MONSTER POPULATION,
ITS CHIEF ECONOMIC ENGINES
WERE TOURISM, ADVENTURING,
AND ENCHANTMENTS—

"UNTIL THE OLD
ROYAL FAMILY WERE
DEPOSED BY THE
KING ETERNAL LORD
BADLUG THE TERRIBLE."

"FOR MORE THAN A
CENTURY SINCE, THE
KINGDOM HAS BEEN RIVEN
BY BRIGANDRY, PLUNDER—

"AND A BLACK
MAGIC
MARKET."

"THE OLD
WAYS ARE
GONE—

"BUT NOT
LOST."

"THE OLD ROYAL LINE
SURVIVES IN PENURY AND
DISGRACE, A GESTURE OF
CONTEMPT TO ALL THOSE
WHO CLING TO THE PAST."

— E. TEMPORE'S
AMANACK OF KYNGDOMES
ET PRYNCPIS

COME BACK
WHEN YOU HAVE
SOME COIN,
'YOUR HIGHNESS."



WELL, ISN'T THIS A PRETTY FIND?

BILE GARNET, FROM DEEP WITHIN MOUNT DAEMON.

WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU FOUND THIS?



THIS WILL BE EASIER IF YOU ASK FEWER QUESTIONS, MRS VASILISC.

DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

BRIBE MY LITTLE MONSTERS TO TAKE A FALL?

THIS ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH, DEAR.



HOW ABOUT NOW?



FULL OF SURPRISES, YOU ARE.

ALL RIGHT. THIS LITTLE LOT SHOULD TAKE YOUR PRINCE MOST OF THE WAY.



MOST OF
THE WAY? I KNOW
WHAT THESE STONES
ARE WORTH, MRS
VASILISC.

WORTH FOUR
MONSTERS, AND
THAT'S COUNTING
ALEX AND ELSA
TOGETHER.

WHAT'S HERS
IS HIS, WHAT'S
HIS IS HERS.

I'LL TAKE YOUR
MONEY, BUT YOU'RE
ONLY PAYING TO GET
YOUR BOY EATEN BY
THE THRAWGG.



IT'S THRAWGG THE
UNCONQUERED,
GIRLIE.

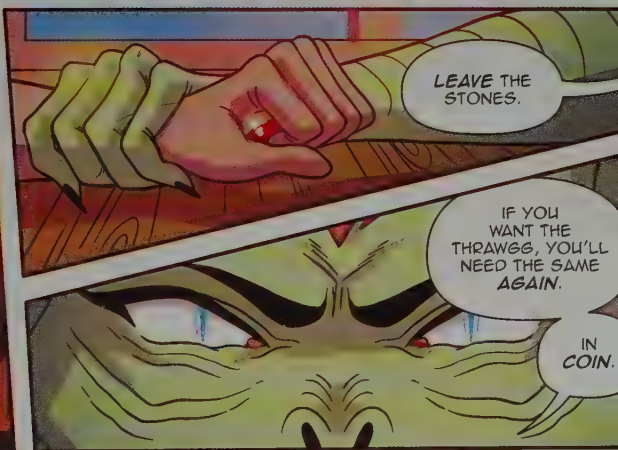
FOR THAT
BEAST TO THROW
A FIGHT, I'LL NEED
A RETIREMENT
FUND.

I'VE NO
USE FOR A
CONQUERED
THRAWGG.



MISTY.

WE
SHOULD
GO.



LEAVE THE
STONES.

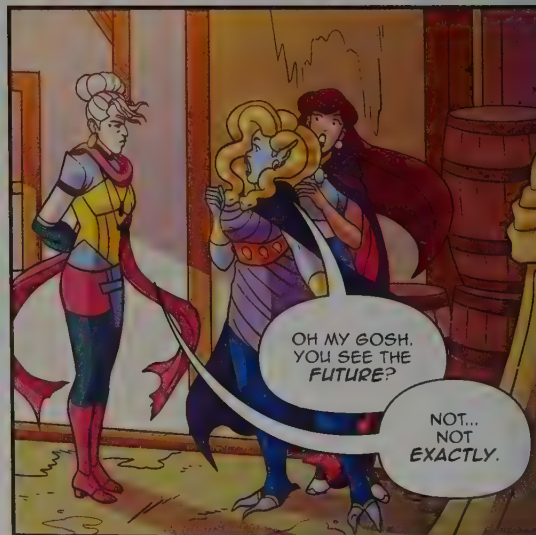
IF YOU
WANT THE
THRAWGG, YOU'LL
NEED THE SAME
AGAIN.

IN
COIN.



OR
TAKE THE
STONES.

SEE IF
YOU MAKE IT
TO THE
DOOR.





UH HUH.
WELL, I HOPE YOU
HAD A GREAT
YESTERDAY.

BUT THE
PAST IS THE
KEY TO
TOMORROW.

I AM ZURRO,
OF THE SISTERS
STRANG. MY ELDEST
SISTER SEES THE
FUTURE. DO YOU
KNOW WHAT SHE
SAW?



NO
FUTURE.

NOT FOR
AN OLD
WOMAN. NOT IN
THIS WORLD.



I THOUGHT
I KNEW BETTER.
I REMEMBERED
THE GOOD OLD
DAYS.

BUT
SHE WAS
RIGHT.

SHE WAS
THE LAST WITCH TO
LEAVE GRIMOIRE.
BADLUG WON'T
ALLOW IT NOW, IN
CASE WE GIVE OUR
POWER TO THE
ENEMY.

BUT THERE
IS A WAY OUT.
A JUMPING
STONE.



WHAT'S A
JUMPING—

I
KNOW!

IT'S AN
ENCHANTED ROCK.
YOU THINK OF A PLACE,
AND YOU HOLD THE
STONE, AND IT TAKES
YOU THERE.

BUT THEY
ONLY WORK
ONCE, AND THE
LAST ONE BURNED
OUT A GENERATION
AGO, SO—

NOT QUITE.
THERE IS ONE
LEFT. BADLUG
KEEPS IT—



IN THE
DARK
TREASURY!



LADIES,
I'M GOING TO
HELP YOU ROB
LORD BADLUG.

AND YOU'RE
GOING TO GET
ME OUT OF
GRIMOIRE.



THIS IS A
TERRIBLE
IDEA.

THE DARK
TREASURY IS
IMPENETRABLE.

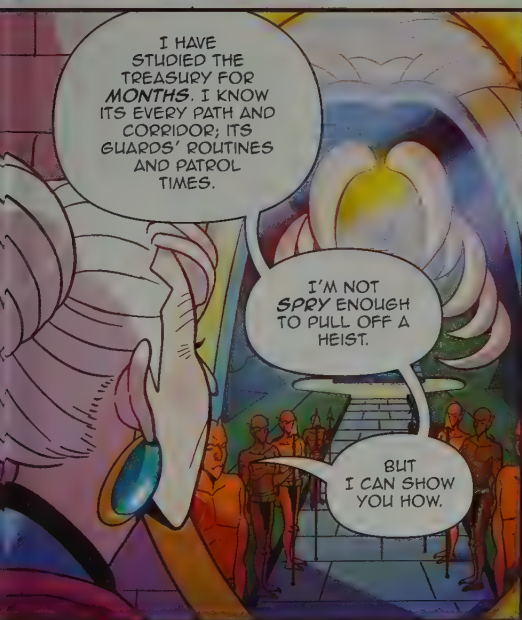


AND YOU
SMUGGLED A
WITCH INTO
BADLUG'S
CASTLE!

HE'LL HAVE
ALL OUR
HEADS FOR
THIS.

OH, HUSH
UP, LITTLE
WORRYBAT.

PRINCESS,
WITH JUST A
LITTLE *TWEAK*,
I CAN SHOW
YOU WHAT I
CAN SEE.



I HAVE
STUDIED THE
TREASURY FOR
MONTHS. I KNOW
ITS EVERY PATH AND
CORRIDOR; ITS
GUARDS' ROUTINES
AND PATROL
TIMES.

I'M NOT
SPY ENOUGH
TO PULL OFF A
HEIST.

BUT
I CAN SHOW
YOU HOW.



IS THIS
HAPPENING
NOW?

THAT'S NOT
HOW MY POWER
WORKS. I CAN
ONLY SHOW YOU
THE PAST.



CAN YOU...
CAN YOU SHOW
ME HOME?

CAN YOU
SHOW ME
MY DAD?



THAT IS
DIFFICULT. YOUR
FATHER IS SOME
DISTANCE
AWAY.

I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO SHOW
YOU YESTER—
AH!



MY LITTLE
GIRL. I'VE
FAILED
YOU.

DAD?



FIRST
YOUR MOTHER.
AND NOW—

I SHOULD
HAVE LISTENED.
I KNOW YOU DID
NOT WANT THIS
LIFE.

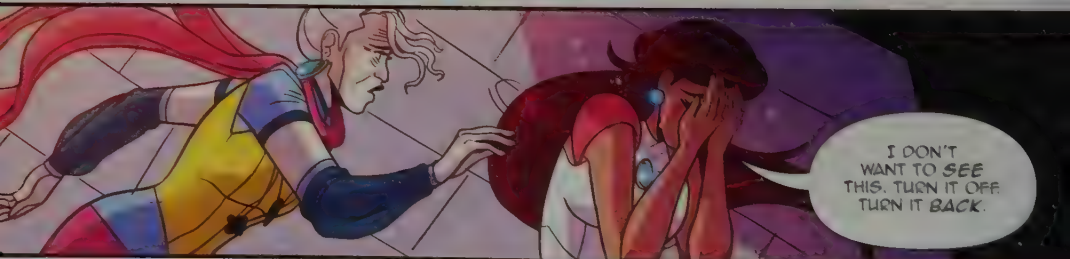
I SHOULD
HAVE ABDICATED
THE THRONE.



WE COULD
HAVE BEEN
FARMERS.
SHOPKEEPERS.
ANYTHING.

ANYTHING
TO HAVE YOU
SAFE BESIDE
ME.

STOP
IT.

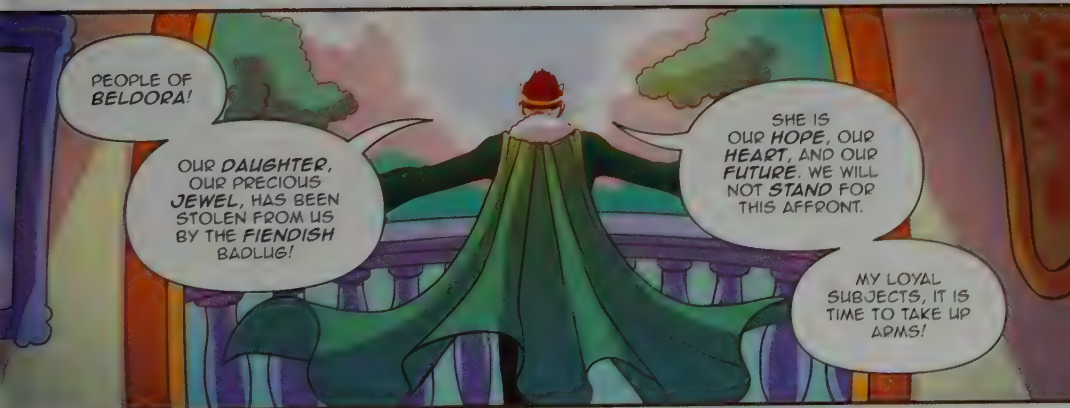


I DON'T
WANT TO SEE
THIS. TURN IT OFF.
TURN IT BACK.



SHOW
ME THE DARK
TREASURY.

WE'RE
GOING TO
STEAL THIS
KINGDOM.





ALL RIGHT.
HERE'S THE
PLAN—

Crinoire
Today

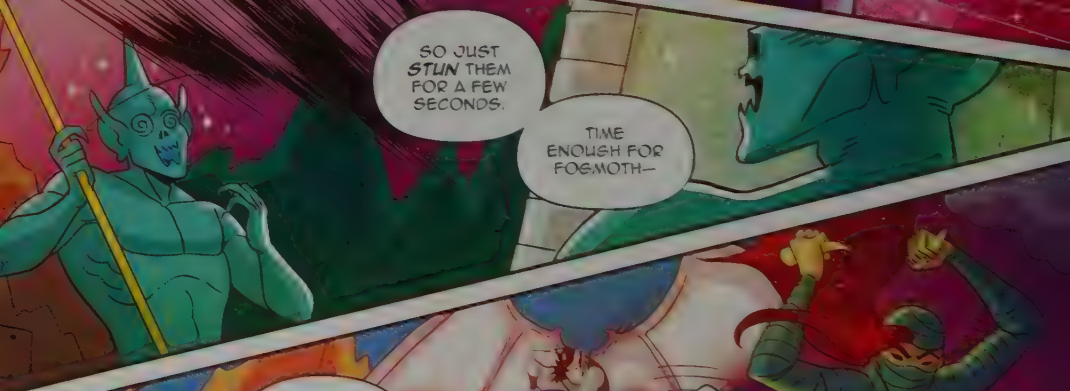


THERE'S A
MOAT OF
BUBBLING ACID
THAT ONLY LOWERS
ON **BADLUG'S**
ORDERS, AND TWO
GUARDS ON DUTY
AT ALL TIMES.



GORGA,
YOU'RE UP
FIRST.

I KNOW
TURNING PEOPLE
TO **STONE** ISN'T
YOUR THING—



SO JUST
STUN THEM
FOR A FEW
SECONDS.

TIME
ENOUGH FOR
FOGMOTH—



—TO GET
ME TO THE
DRAWBRIDGE.

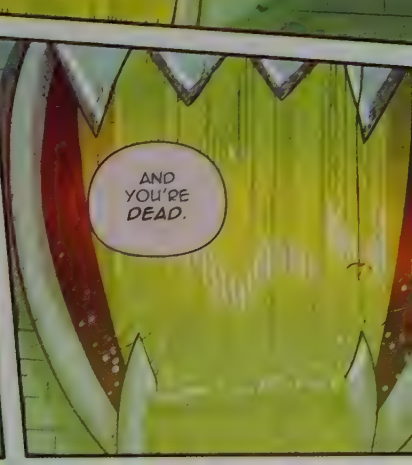
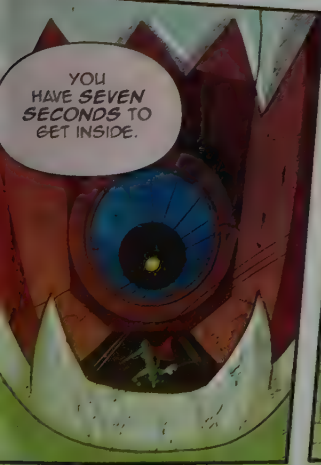
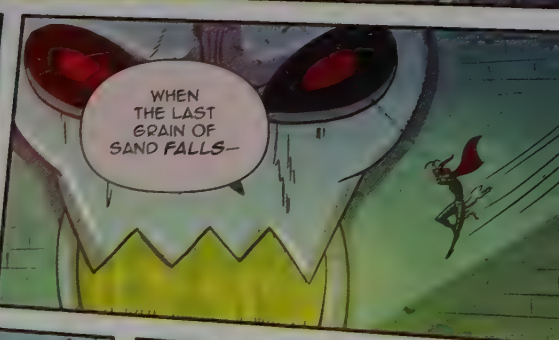
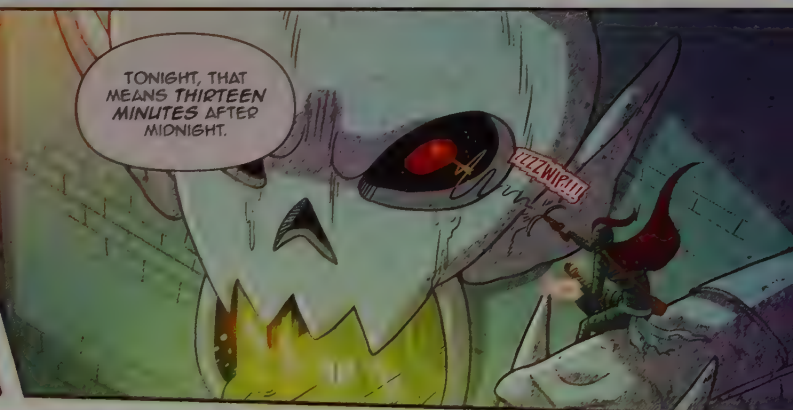
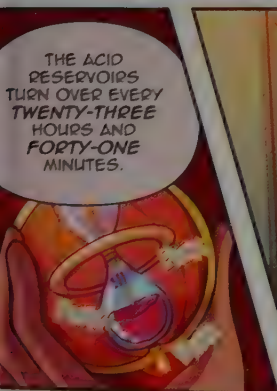
MISTY,
I HATE THIS
PLAN.

CONSTRUCTIVE
CRITICISM ONLY
PLEASE.
FOGMOTH.



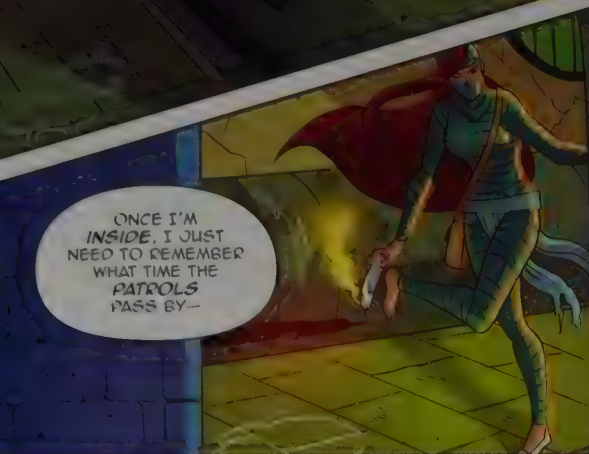
AFTER THAT,
IT'S ALL UP
TO ME.

YOU
BETTER HOPE
YOUR **INTEL** IS
GOOD. ZURRO

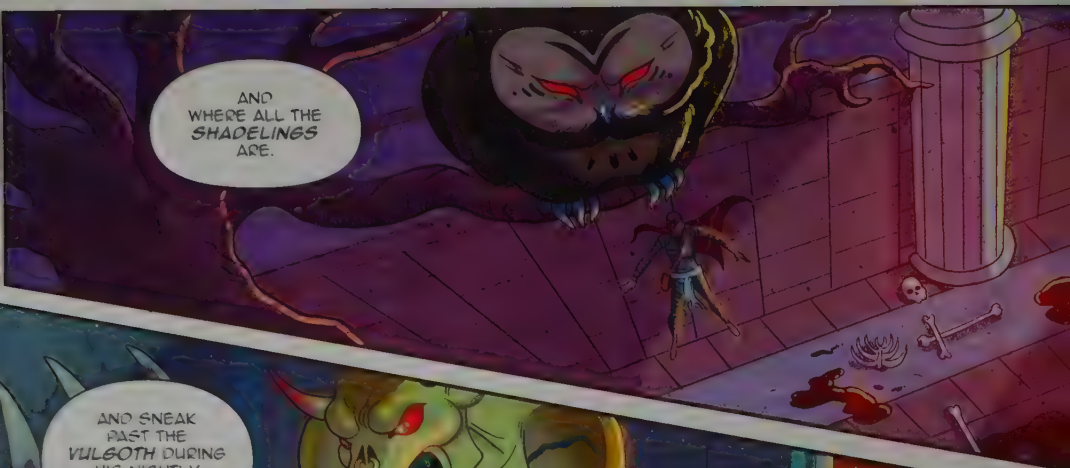
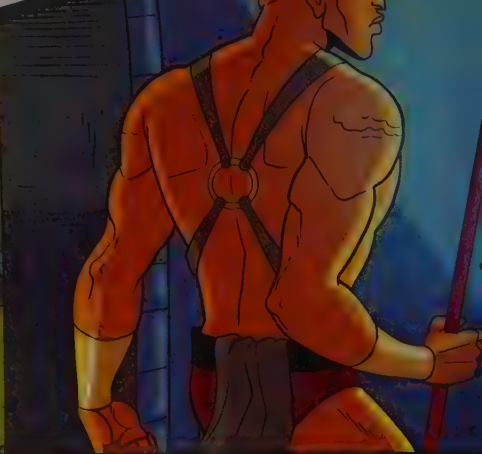




I'll be fine.



ONCE I'M
INSIDE, I JUST
NEED TO REMEMBER
WHAT TIME THE
PATROLS
PASS BY-



AND
WHERE ALL THE
SHADELINGS
ARE.



AND SNEAK
PAST THE
VULSOOTH DURING
HIS NIGHTLY
FEED.

AND I'LL
BE AT THE
HEART OF
THE TREASURY.



ZURRO, HOW
WILL I KNOW
WHICH ONE IS
THE JUMPING
STONE?



OH,
THAT'S
EASY.

IT'LL BE
THE ROCK
THAT'S TALKING
TO YOU.

HOME,
ARTEMISIA.



WISH IT,
PRINCESS, AND
I CAN TAKE
YOU—

HOME!



ROARRRRR!



ROOOARRR!

I'VE
PREPARED A
GLIDING
DRAFT.

ONCE
YOU HAVE THE
TREASURES,
GETTING OUT IS
EASY.

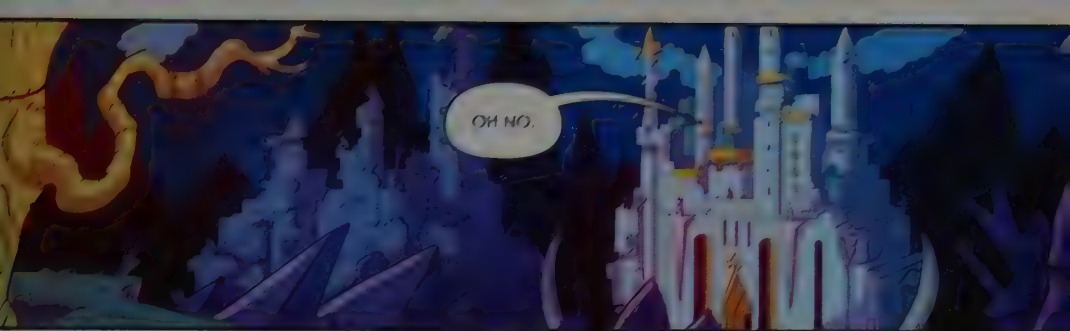
TAKE THE
OTHER CAUSEWAY
TO THE UPPER
LEVELS. FIND A
WINDOW, DRINK THE
POTION, AND
LEAP.

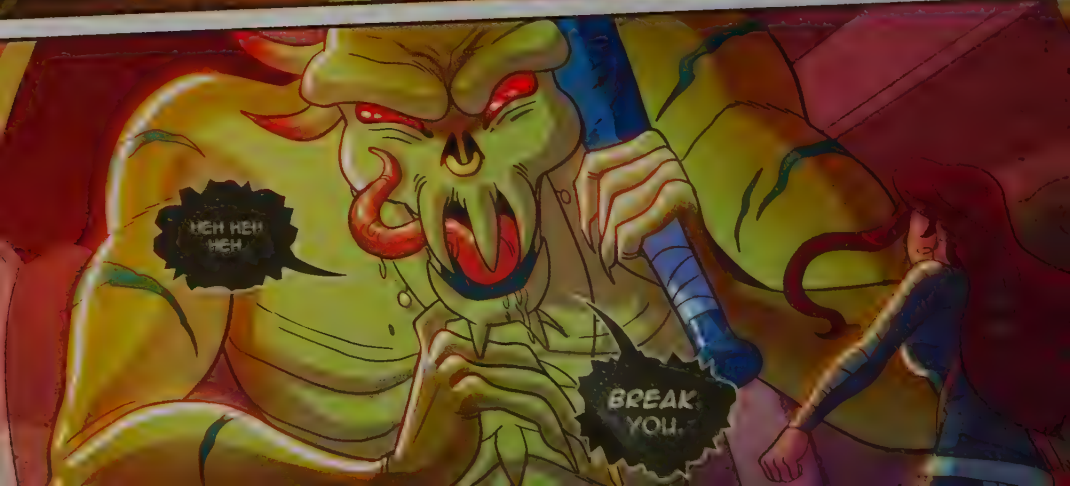
IT'S THE
ONLY WAY OUT.
YOU DON'T WANT
TO TRY SNEAKING
PAST THE VULGOTH
TWICE.

ROOOOOOARRR!

OH.

NO!







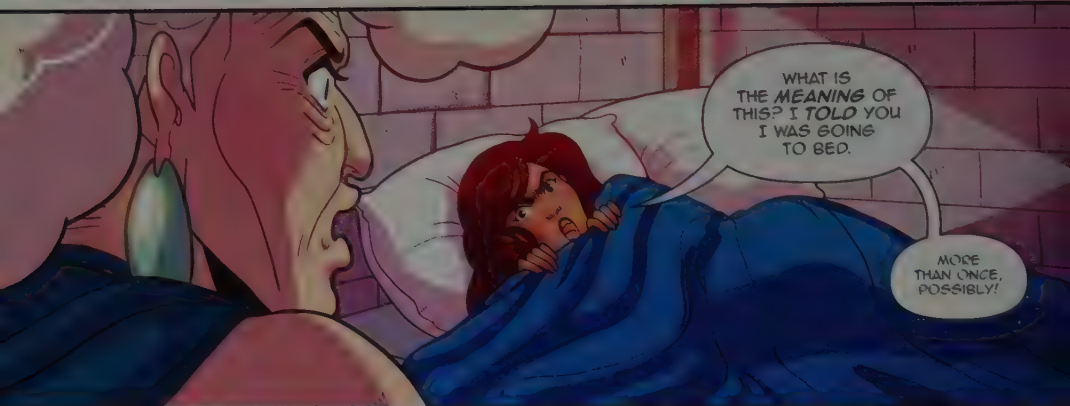




CHAPTER THREE







WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO BED.

MORE THAN ONCE, POSSIBLY!



HMM. I COULD HAVE SWORN I SMELLED MAGIC.

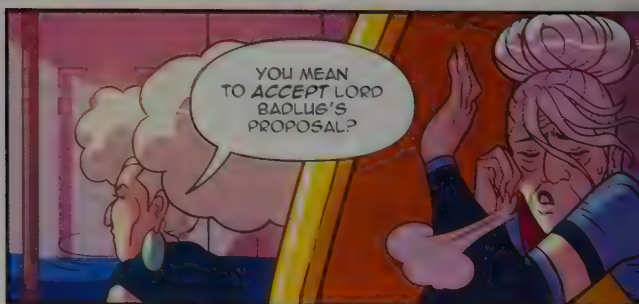
OF COURSE YOU DID! BADLUG PUT A MAGIC MIRROR IN MY ROOM, JUST TO TALINT ME!



NOW LET ME REST, OR I WON'T LOOK BEAUTIFUL FOR MY WEDDING.

YOUR... WEDDING?

SNEE
SNEE

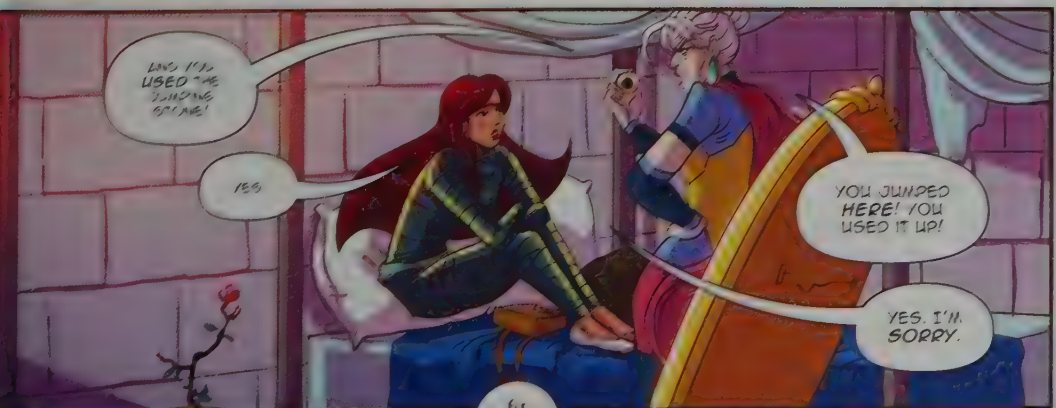


YOU MEAN TO ACCEPT LORD BADLUG'S PROPOSAL?



WHAT HOPE DO I HAVE? PETE IS DOOMED. I'LL NEVER ESCAPE.

BUT IF YOU DON'T LEAVE, I CAN CHANGE MY MIND.





THIS WAS MY WAY OUT. THIS WAS MY PRICE FOR HELPING YOU, AND YOU USED IT.

I WAS FALLING TO MY DEATH! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!

BUT LOOK; WE CAN BRIBE MRS VASILISC! GET THE SWORD! KILL BADLUG!

YOU DON'T NEED TO LEAVE.



IZZAT SOP?

SCRNCH

WHAT A FAIRY TALE! YOU KILL BADLUG AND EVERYTHING'S FINE, IS IT?

YOU STICK HIM WITH YOUR SWORD, AND THE PEOPLE DANCE AND SING, IS THAT RIGHT? IT'S *SPRINGTIME* ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND THE BUNNIES TALK LIKE *BABBIES*, AND THE BLUEBIRDS DO MY LAUNDRY?



IS THAT HOW YOU SEE IT WORKING, WHEN YOU KILL A KING?

TELL ME THAT BEDTIME STORY.



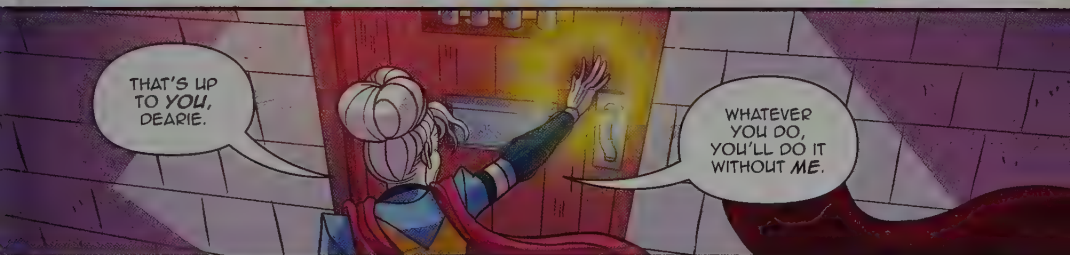
BADLUG IS A TYRANT. ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN THAT.

WE'LL HAVE A WAR. YOU KNOW WHO WINS THOSE? NOT THE BEST MAN.

IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S RIOTS, AND FAMINE, AND PLAGUE—

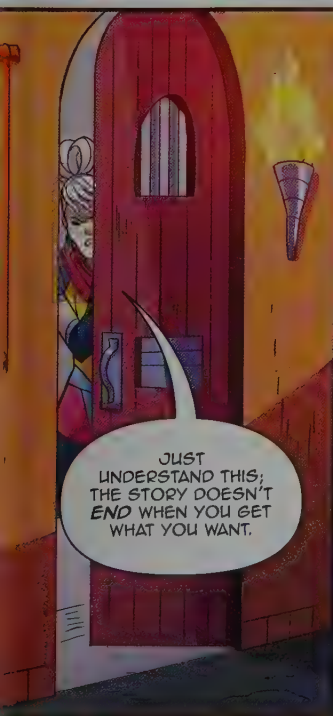


SO WHAT AM I MEANT TO DO? LET HIM LIVE? BE HIS *QUEEN*? WATCH HIM CRUSH MY KINGDOM NEXT?



THAT'S UP TO YOU, DEARIE.

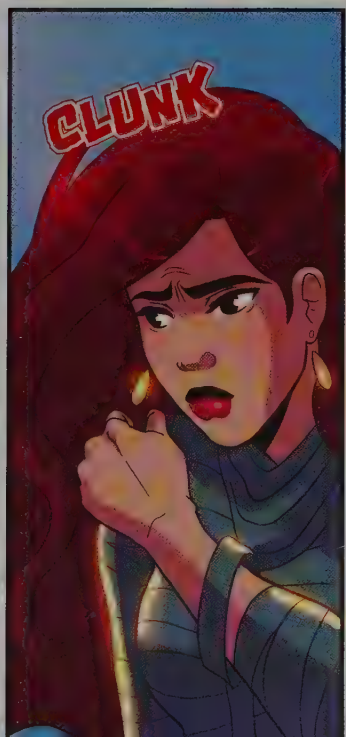
WHATEVER YOU DO, YOU'LL DO IT WITHOUT ME.



JUST UNDERSTAND THIS; THE STORY DOESN'T END WHEN YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT.



SOME OF US HAVE TO LIVE HERE.



CLUNK



AREN'T I A
GOOD TYRANT,
HIGH TREASURER?

DON'T I
TRY?

WHY WOULD
SOMEONE
STEAL
FROM YOU?

FROM
US?

FROM
ME?

I WAS
BORN TO LEAD,
YOU KNOW.

IT'S A
BURDEN MOST
PEOPLE DON'T
UNDERSTAND. A
SACRED DUTY
HANDLED DOWN BY
THE DARK
GODS.

AND I HAVE
DONE MY DUTY. I
HAVE TRANSFORMED
GRIMOIRE INTO THE
MOST FEARED
KINGDOM IN THE
LAND.

I HAVE GIVEN
THE PEOPLE MY
STRENGTH, MY
VISION.

I HAVE LED,
SO THAT OTHERS
MAY MEELY
FOLLOW, JUST
AS THEY PREFER
TO DO.

I HAVE
GIVEN THEM
GREATNESS.

AND
THIS IS MY
REWARD? TO BE
DISRESPECTED? TO
BE ROBBED?



O LISTEN NOW,
THE GREAT AND
WONDROUS TALE—

OF BRAVEST
PETE UPON THE
GRIMMEST TRAIL—

HE BRAVELY
FACED A BEASTLY
LADY FOE—

WHO MEANT TO
RENDER HIM FROM
HEAD TO TOE!

AND BRAVE WAS
HE BEFORE THE
BRUTE OF ROCK—

WHO MERCILESSLY
SOUGHT TO CLEAN
HIS CLOCK!

MOST BRAVE
OF ALL, OUR HERO
TOOK A STAND—

WHEN BLACK
BEWITCHING DEALT
A DEADLY HAND—

AND ALL THE
MANY MONSTERS
THAT DID FIGHT HE—

TO PROVE THAT
HE BE HANDSOME,
BRAVE AND MIGHTY!

YEA, THOUGH
THEY SOUGHT TO
SEND HIM TO
HIS GRAVE—

...WHEN FACED
WITH CERTAIN
DOOM, BRAVE
PETE WAS BRAVE!

PETER!
HERE'S YOUR
TEA.

THANK
YOU **SO** MUCH,
ELGA!

WHATCHU
WORKING
ON THERE,
PETER?

JUST A LITTLE
POETRY. I DIDN'T
BRING A BARD, SO
I'M WRITING MY
OWN VERSE.

FUNNIEST THING;
I WAS EXPECTING
TO FIGHT MORE
MONSTERS, BUT
APART FROM THE
VERMINOTAUR,
EVERYONE HAS
BEEN REALLY
LOVELY.

OH, WELL,
YOU KNOW HOW
IT IS. WE'RE ALL
JUST **FOLKS**.
TRYING TO DO
OUR **BEST**.

WE CAME
INTO A LITTLE
MONEY, SO WE'VE
RETIRED FROM
MONSTERING.

AND ANYWAY,
THE **THRAWGS**
IS GOING TO
KILL YOU.



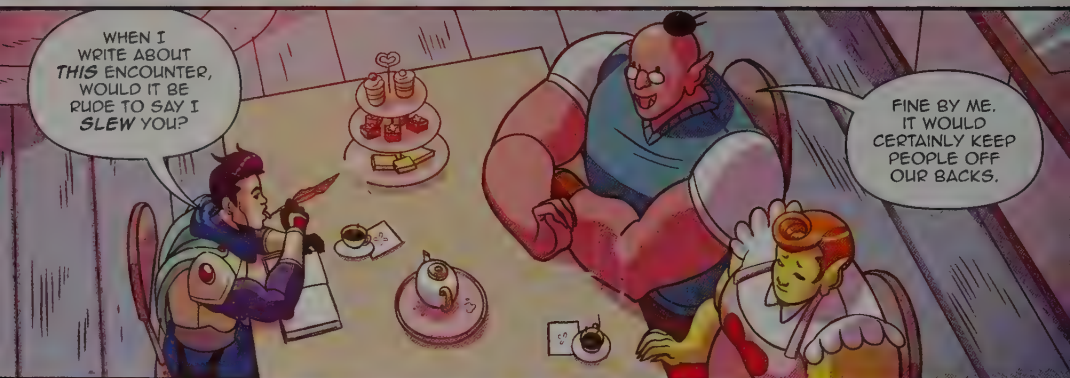
GOSH,
I HOPE
NOT.

I'M HAVING
SUCH A NICE
TIME, MEETING ALL
THESE MONSTERS,
FINDING OUT WHAT
THEY DO.

DID YOU
KNOW, THE
ROCKROACH HAS
A TOP-CLASS
COLLECTION OF
ANTIQUE
CLOCKS?



WE'VE
SEEN IT!
HE HAS AN OPEN
HOUSE EVERY
SUMMER.



WHEN I
WRITE ABOUT
THIS ENCOUNTER,
WOULD IT BE
RUDE TO SAY I
SLEW YOU?

FINE BY ME.
IT WOULD
CERTAINLY KEEP
PEOPLE OFF
OUR BACKS.



BUT YOU'LL
BE **DEAD** BY
NIGHTFALL
ANYWAY, SO IT
DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER.



POOR PETE.
HE'S LEARNING
SO MUCH ABOUT
MONSTER
CULTURE.

HE'S
REALLY
VERY NICE.
MISTY.



YOU SPEND
TOO MUCH TIME
WATCHING THAT
THING. YOU'LL
TURN **YOURSELF**
TO STONE.

COME HELP
ME FIND A KING.
THERE HAS TO BE
SOMEONE IN
GRIMOIRE WHO
CAN TAKE OVER.



EVERYONE I
READ ABOUT
SOUNDS **JUST** AS
BAD AS BADLUG.
THEY'RE ALL
BANDIT KINGS AND
MURDEROUS
NOBLES.

ONE OF
THEM BAKED
HIS OWN
CHILDREN
INTO A PIE.

HE
WASN'T
EVEN
HUNGRY.



I DON'T
KNOW WHY
YOU CAN'T DO
IT **YOURSELF.**

YOU'D BE
THE **BEST**
KING.



I DON'T
WANT TO BE
KING. I WANT TO
LIVE MY **OWN**
LIFE.

KNOCK!

KNOCK!



GREAT NEWS,
GUYS! WE'RE
FORMING A **BAND!**
WYRMOTHER
GAVE ME THESE
INSTRUMENTS.

I'M NOT
VERY **MUSICAL.**
BUT SHE SAYS
I'LL KNOW
WHAT TO DO
WITH THEM!



OOH!
FOGMOTH! WHAT
ABOUT ROBIN?
CAN'T HE BE
KING?

WHO'S
ROBIN?



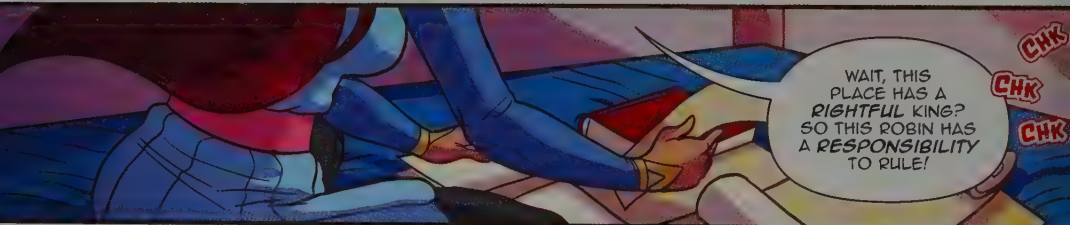
ROBIN IS
FOGMOTH'S
BO-O-OYFRIEND.

AND THE
RIGHTFUL KING
OF GRIMOIRE.

HE IS
NOT MY
BOYFRIEND.

BUT HE
IS THE
RIGHTFUL KING
OF GRIMOIRE.

I HAVE NO
IDEA HOW TO
PLAY THIS
THING.



WAIT, THIS
PLACE HAS A
RIGHTFUL KING?
SO THIS ROBIN HAS
A RESPONSIBILITY
TO RULE!



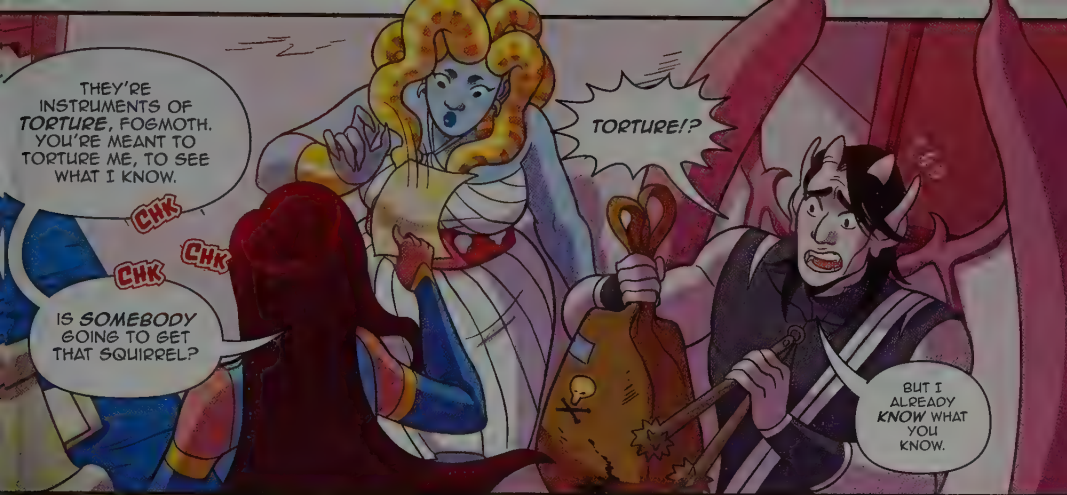
GUD KYNGE ROBYN

SO DO YOU,
IF YOU KILL
BADLUG, RIGHT
OF CONQUEST.



YOU'D BE
A **MUCH** BETTER
KING THAN ROBIN.
HE **HATES**
MONARCHY.

I DON'T
THINK THIS EVEN
IS A MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT.



THEY'RE
INSTRUMENTS OF
TORTURE. FOGMOTH.
YOU'RE MEANT TO
TORTURE ME, TO SEE
WHAT I KNOW.

TORTURE!?

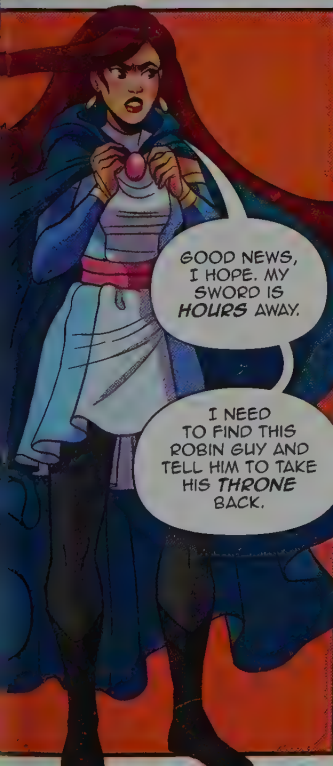
BUT I
ALREADY
KNOW WHAT
YOU
KNOW.

IS SOMEBODY
GOING TO GET
THAT SQUIRREL?



HEY LI'L
BUDDY.

BLACK
SQUIRREL.
MUST BE FROM
MRS VASILISC.



GOOD NEWS,
I HOPE. MY
SWORD IS
HOURS AWAY.

I NEED
TO FIND THIS
ROBIN GUY AND
TELL HIM TO TAKE
HIS **THRONE**
BACK.



PRINCESS,
YOU CAN'T!

WHY NOT?
DID HE KILL
SOMEONE?
DID HE EAT
SOMEONE?

HE
JUST--

HE'S
A BIG
JERK.



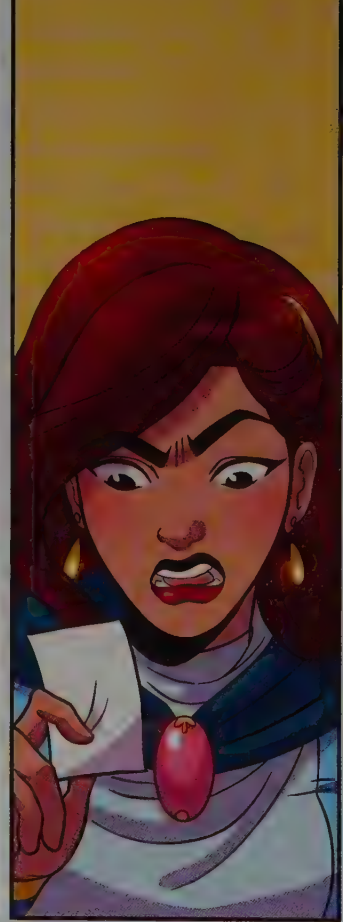
OH DEAR.
IT'S NOT GOING
TO BE THAT
EASY.

EASY!?

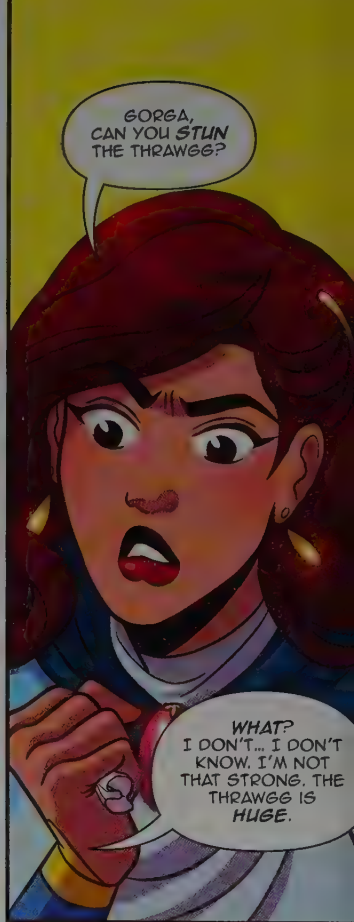


THRAWG
WON'T THROW
THE FIGHT.

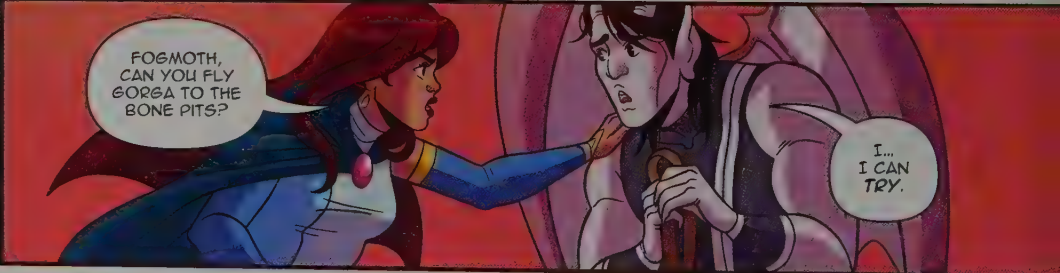
HE'S GOING
TO DIE! PETE
IS GOING
TO DIE!



GORGA,
CAN YOU STUN
THE THRAWG?



WHAT?
I DON'T... I DON'T
KNOW. I'M NOT
THAT STRONG. THE
THRAWG IS
HUGE.



FOEMOTH,
CAN YOU FLY
GORGA TO THE
BONE PITS?

I...
I CAN
TRY.



NO.
YOU HAVE
TO DO IT.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
SAVE THE
PRINCE.

I'M
GOING TO
SAVE THE
KINGDOM.







WE MUST
STAND TOGETHER!
WE MUST—

WAIT!

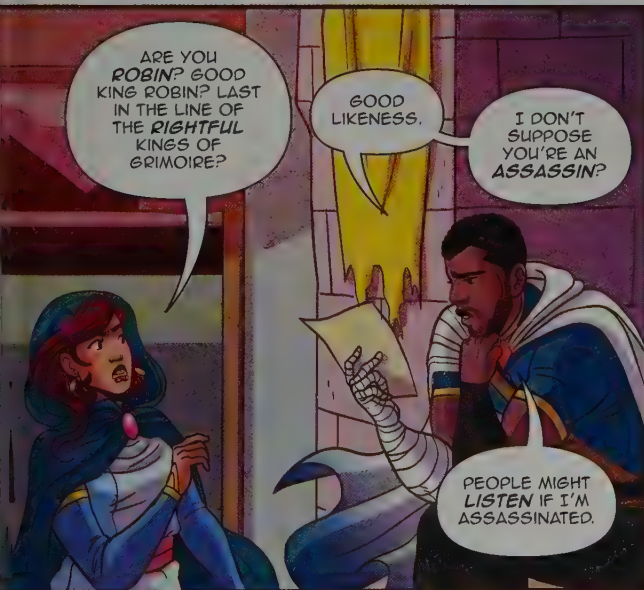
DON'T
GO!

I THINK
THEY'RE A
LITTLE YOUNG
TO OVERTHROW
A TYRANT.



CHANGE
STARTS
WITH
THE CHILDREN.

AND THEY'RE
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
SHOW UP.



ARE YOU
ROBIN? GOOD
KING ROBIN? LAST
IN THE LINE OF
THE RIGHTFUL
KINGS OF
GRIMOIRE?

GOOD
LIKENESS.

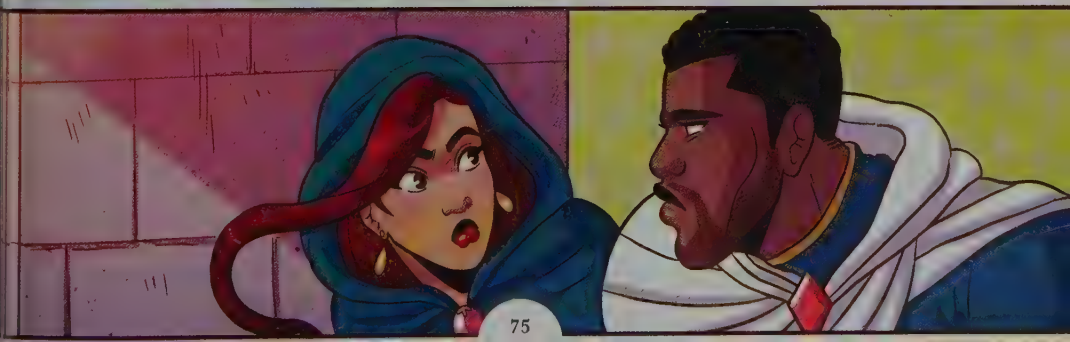
I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU'RE AN
ASSASSIN?

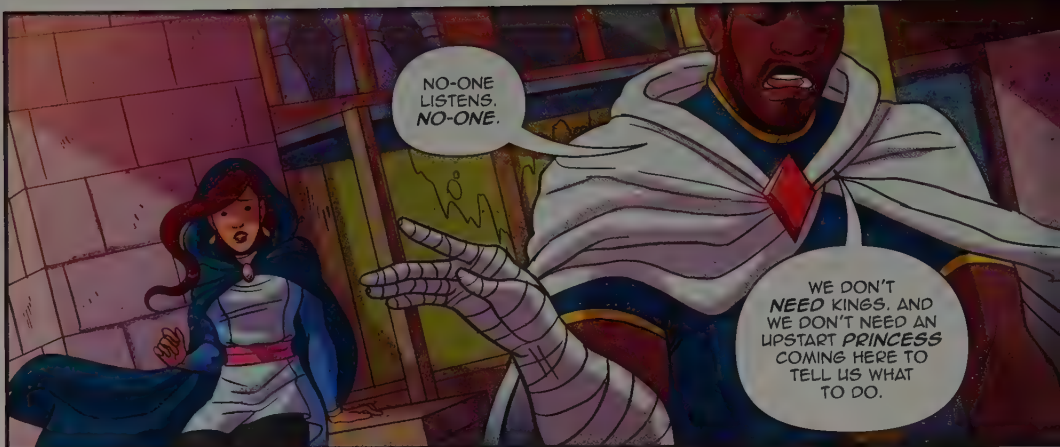
PEOPLE MIGHT
LISTEN IF I'M
ASSASSINATED.



I'M A
PRINCESS.
PRINCESS MISTY
OF BELDORA.

I'M GOING
TO OVERTHROW
BADLUG AND I
NEED YOU TO BE
THE KING.





NO-ONE
LISTENS.
NO-ONE.

WE DON'T
NEED KINGS, AND
WE DON'T NEED AN
UPSTART *PRINCESS*
COMING HERE TO
TELL US WHAT
TO DO.



I DIDN'T
COME HERE. I
WAS *DRESSED*
HERE.

BADLUG
KILLED MY MOM.
WHEN I KILL HIM,
I NEED *ONE*
GOOD PERSON
TO TAKE HIS
PLACE.



YOU DON'T
NEED ONE
PERSON, LADY.
YOU NEED
PEOPLE.

AND YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO *GET* THEM,
BECAUSE YOU
DON'T KNOW
THEM.

YOU'RE
JUST ANOTHER
HIGH-BORN
ARISTOCRAT
TRADING ONE
DESPOT FOR
ANOTHER.

HEY! YOU
DON'T KNOW
ME!



YEAH?
I KNOW YOUR
TYPE. EVEN IF YOU
COULD KILL
BADLUG—

— AND
YOU
CAN'T—

— YOU'LL BE
HOME TO YOUR
HANDMAIDS
BEFORE THE
BLOOD DRIES.



NO WONDER
FOSMOTH
DUMPED YOU, I
HAVE *EVERY*
RIGHT—

HELP!
HELP US!
PLEASE,
SOMEONE
HELP!

WE MADE IT,
FOEMOTH!
WE'RE IN
TIME.

NOW I
JUST HAVE TO
STUN THE
SCARIEST BEAST
IN GRIMOIRE.

NO BIG
DEAL.

OK...
GOOD...

YOU
JUST...

HUFF...

JUST
GO...

HUFF
HUFF...

GO
DO THAT.

UUUUURH.

NEVER
FLOWN...

SO
FAR...

SO
FAST...

IN ALL
MY LIFE.

NEVER
DOING THAT
AGAI—

OH.



HELLO,
YOUNG MAN.

YOU MUST
DELIVER AN
URGENT
MESSAGE TO
THE PRINCESS.

AT
ONCE.



ALL
RIGHT.

HERE
WE GO.



MAYBE...
MAYBE I CAN
JUST REASON
WITH THE
THRAWGS.

MONSTER
TO MONSTER.

MAYBE
I'LL JUST—

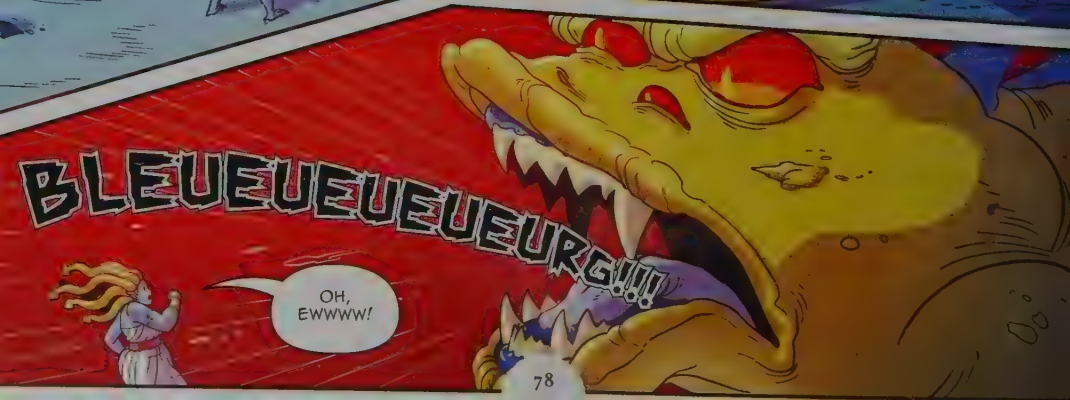


RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

OH
SNAKES.



BLEUEUEUEURG!!!

OH,
EWWWV!



OKAY BIG GUY,
NO MORE MISS
TRIES-TO-BE-NICE-
GORGON. GET A
TASTE OF THIS.

OH!

OH
WOW!



I DID IT. I
STUNNED THE
THRAWGG.

I SAVED
THE DAY!

WAIT UNTIL
I TELL—

OH.

PREPARE TO
MEET YOUR
END—

WELL
WELL
WELL.

THRAWGG.

The streets of Grimoire

PLEASE
HELP!

PLEASE.

WHAT'S
WRONG? WHAT
HAPPENED?

MY SISTER,
AGGRA! SHE STOLE
AN EGGFRUIT FROM
A GUARD. HE
CAUGHT HER. IF HE
THROWS HER IN
LOCKUP, I'LL NEVER
SEE HER AGAIN.

ROBIN,
GET THE GIRL
SOMEWHERE
SAFE. I'LL TAKE
CARE OF THIS.

GET YOUR
HANDS OFF
ME!

TYPICAL GRUNTS,
NEVER HERE WHEN
SOMEONE TRIES TO
KNOCK DOWN OUR
HOUSES, BUT
YOU'LL ALWAYS
MISS AN EGGFRUIT.

WHOA!

THUNK

UUUUUUUNH...





SKRAWW!

SKRAWW!

SKRAWW!

SKRAWW!

SKRAWW!

BUT YOU
JUST OPENED
UP A WHOLE
UNDERWORLD
OF TROUBLE.



CHAPTER FOUR

OH NO.

SHADELINGS!

SKRAWN!

SKRAWN!

TRAITOR!

SPY!

SPY!

SKRAWN!

SKRAWN!

SPY!

GET
OFF ME!
GET AWAY!

OUTSIDER!

SPY!

PRISONER!

SKRAWN!

SPY!

TRAITOR!

SKRAWN!

SPY!

SKRAWN!

MISTY!



Lair of the Thrawgg
The most dangerous place
in Grimdoze

OH DEAR.
I THINK THERE'S
BEEN A **TERRIBLE**
MISUNDERSTANDING.

YOUR
PLEAS FOR
MERCY FALL ON
DEAF EARS.

YOUR REIGN
OF TERROR
IS OVER,
THRAWGG.

I'M
REALLY
NOT THE
THRAWGG.

I DON'T LOOK
ANYTHING LIKE
A THRAWGG.

WELL...
YOU'RE A
MONSTER, AREN'T
YOU? AND THIS IS
HIS LAIR.

THAT'S RUDE.
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE **BETTER**
THAN THAT,
PETE.

UH...
YOU WHAT?

THE THRAWGG
IS A GIANT
INDESTRUCTIBLE
FROG-BEAST THAT
DEVOURS MEN
WHOLE. IF I HAD MY
BESTIARY, I'D
SHOW YOU A—

WROWBURROWBROW!!

OH, SEE,
THAT'S THE
THRAWGG.

"THRAWG,
MEGARANA
ABOMIPHIBII

"THE MOST FEARED
CREATURE IN THE
SEVEN-OR-SO
KINGDOMS.

"THRAWG IS A GIANT
FROG MONSTER WITH
CORROSIVE SPIT,
CRUEL EYES, SKIN AS
TOUGH AS STEEL—

RUN!

OH
CRUMBS!

"AND THE ABILITY TO
SUCK THE FLESH FROM
A MAN'S BONES IN THE
BEAT OF A HEART.

"TERRITORY: THE BONE PITS,
THE SUBTERRANEAN
ENTRANCE TO GRIMORE.

UNGH!

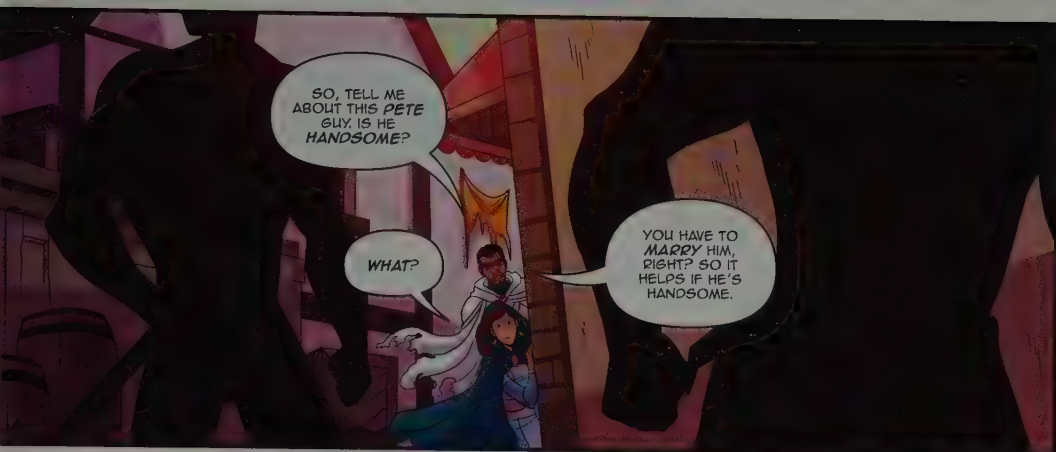
"DIET: LIVESTOCK;
ROCKS; BOYS WHO
ARE RUDE TO THEIR
MOTHERS—

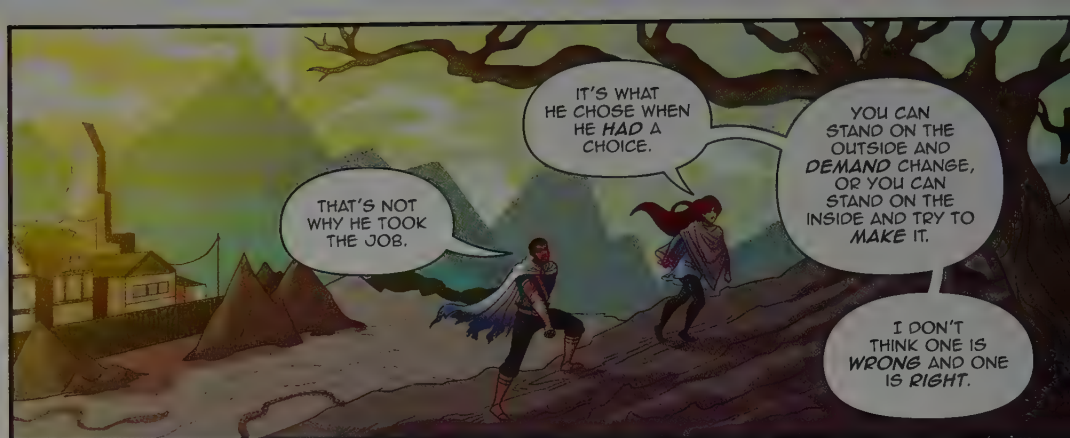
"KNIGHTS.

"APPROACH
WITH CAUTION.

"ACTUALLY, DO NOT
APPROACH. EVER."

—BESTIARY
ATTENBORGLIA.







BAD NEWS,
MY DEAR.

NO!

IT'S NOT
FINE. NOTHING
IS FINE.

WYRMOTHER
TOLD ME MY
BRIDE WAS
MISBEHAVING.

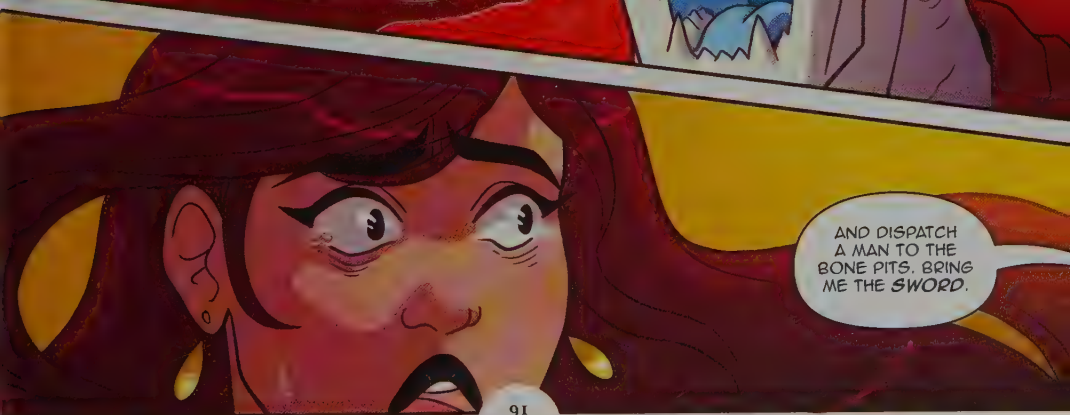
I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
MISTAKEN, BUT
HERE WE ARE.

WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN UP TO,
LITTLE ONE? DID
YOU **PLUNDER** MY
TREASURY?



WYRMOTHER,
FIND AND **EXECUTE**
HER ATTENDANTS.
CHAIN HER UP IN
THE THRONE
ROOM.

WE WILL
BE MARRIED
AT **DUSK**.

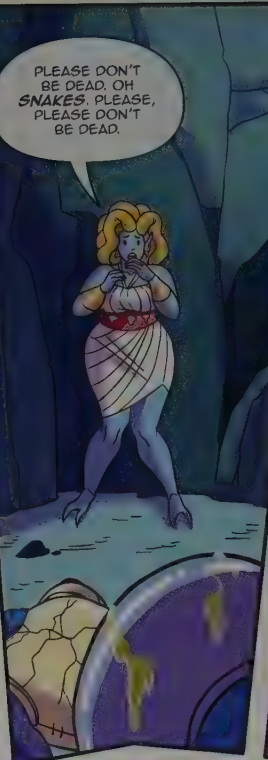


AND DISPATCH
A MAN TO THE
BONE PITS. BRING
ME THE **SWORD**.



THATWEE
MUST HAVE
DEVOURED THE
PRINCE BY
NOW.

SSSSSSSLURRRRRP



PLEASE DON'T
BE DEAD. OH
SNAKES. PLEASE,
PLEASE DON'T
BE DEAD.



HEY!
LEAVE HIM
ALONE, YOU BIG
BULLY!



SNORT



AAH! NO!
YOU CAN'T EAT
HIM! I LIKE HIM!
PLEASE, LEAVE
HIM ALONE.

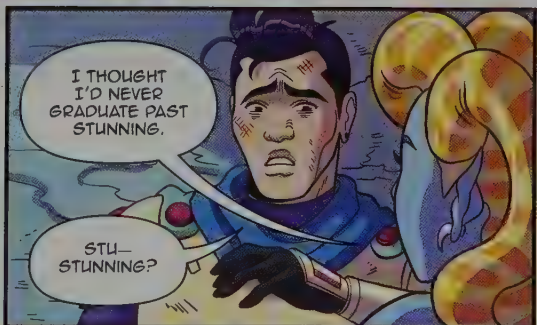
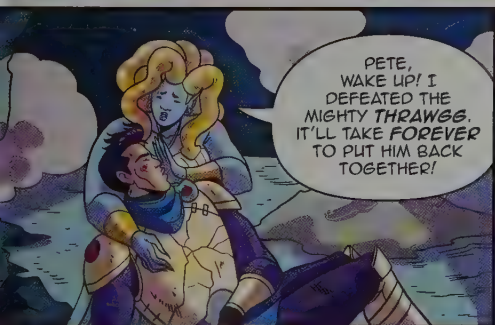
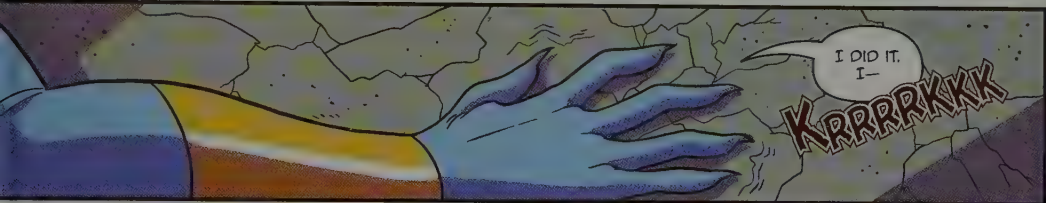


GULP



LEAVE

HIM.
ALONE





STUPID.

I'M NEVER
COMING BACK
WITH YOU,
BADLUG. I'D
RATHER DIE.

YOU CAN'T
BE KING OF
BELDORA IF
I'M DEAD.



ON THE
CONTRARY,
MY DEAR.

THERE'S
MORE THAN ONE
WAY TO TAKE
YOUR THRONE.

SHOW HER,
WYRMOTHER.



YOUR FATHER
IS TRYING TO
LEAD
AN ARMY INTO
GRIMOIRE.

HE MEANS
TO GO TO WAR
FOR HIS PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER.



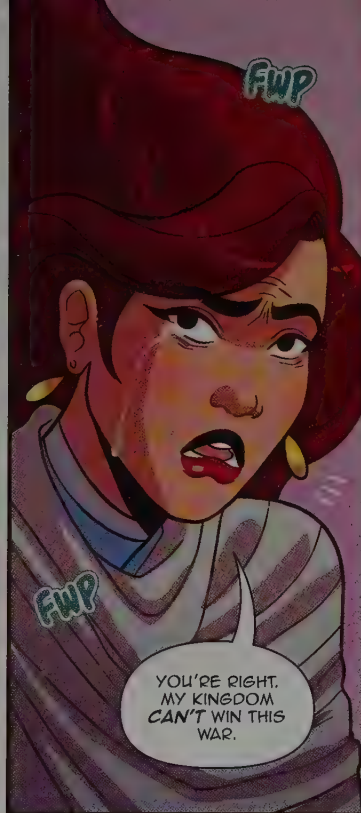
AND HE
WILL LOSE. MY
MONSTERS WILL
SLAUGHTER YOUR
MEN, AND I WILL
CLAIM GRIMOIRE BY
CONQUEST.

SO YOU SEE,
PRINCESS, I
DON'T NEED
YOU.

IF YOU
WISH TO
PREVENT A
WAR, YOU
NEED ME.



CURSE
IT.



YOU'RE RIGHT.
MY KINGDOM
CAN'T WIN THIS
WAR.



BUT THEY'RE
ONLY COMING
HERE FOR ME.

THERE'S MORE
THAN ONE WAY
TO END THIS.



STOP THIS!

WHAT IS
SHE--?



I'M NOT
GOING TO MARRY
YOU. OR PETE. OR
ANYONE.



I'D RATHER
BE FREE!



HEY!

HI FOGMOTH.
GOOD CATCH!

FWP

FWUMP!



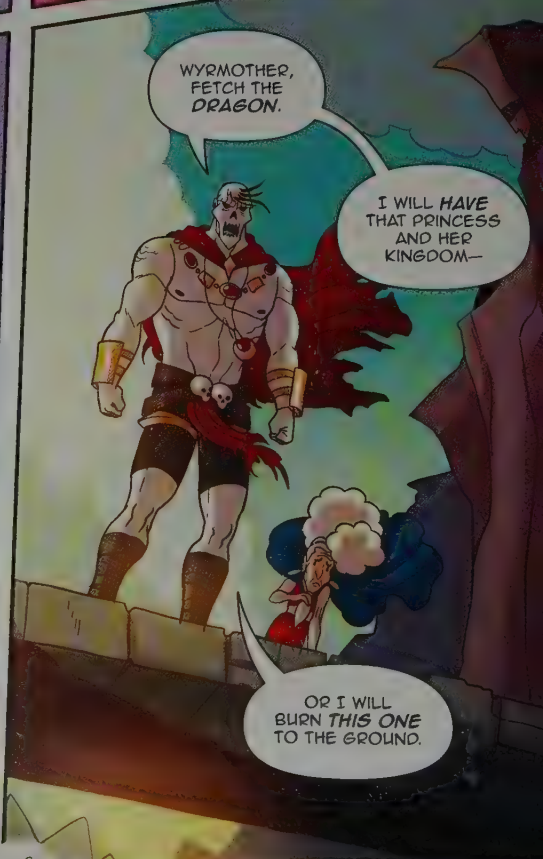
I MET ZURRO'S
SISTER. THE ONE
WHO SEES THE
FUTURE.

SHE SAID
YOU'D NEED A
LITTLE HELP.



WHAT ELSE
DID SHE
SAY?

BECAUSE
I NEED
MORE THAN
A LITTLE.



WYRMOTHER,
FETCH THE
DRAGON.

I WILL HAVE
THAT PRINCESS
AND HER
KINGDOM—

OR I WILL
BURN THIS ONE
TO THE GROUND.

—SO HE
DESTROYED THE
WHOLE CASTLE.
BUT HE BUILT
ANOTHER ONE.

WOW,
HE SOUNDS
SUPER MEAN.

THE WORST.
BUT WE ALWAYS
ASSUMED WE
WERE STUCK WITH
HIM.

WE DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
THE SWORD.
OR MISTY.

OR
PETE!

SURE.
WE DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
PETE.

THESE
TUNNELS
REALLY GO TO
THE TOWN
SQUARE?

EVENUALLY!

AWESOME.
MAYBE I CAN
KILL BADLUG
THERE, IN FRONT
OF EVERYONE!

AND THEN
I CAN MARRY
MISTY RIGHT
WHERE HE
FELL!



THAT'LL
BE NICE

YEAH.
I GUESS.

BUT I
DON'T THINK
SHE WANTS TO
MARRY ME.



I THOUGHT
IT WAS ALL AN
ADVENTURE, YOU
KNOW?

BUT I MET
ALL THESE PEOPLE
COMING HERE, AND
THEY ALL HAVE
THEIR OWN LIVES,
AND THEIR OWN
ADVENTURES.

AND I
CAN'T JUST TAKE
HER ADVENTURE
AND MAKE IT MY
OWN, YOU
KNOW?

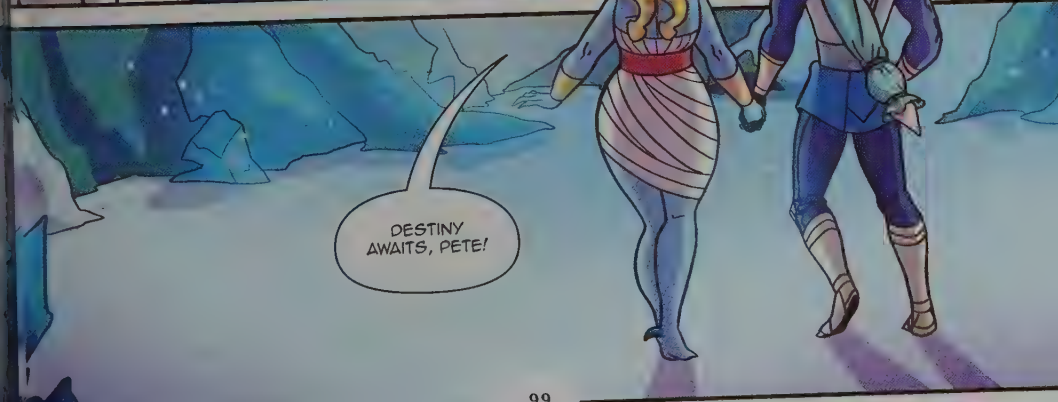
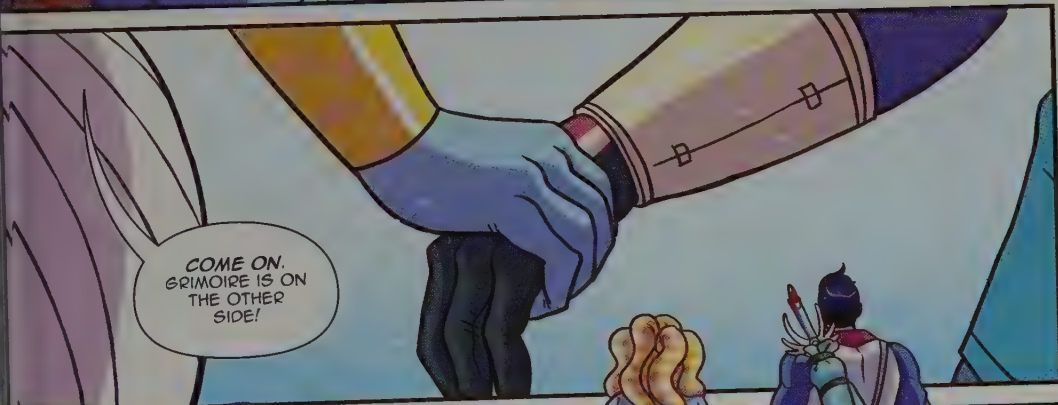
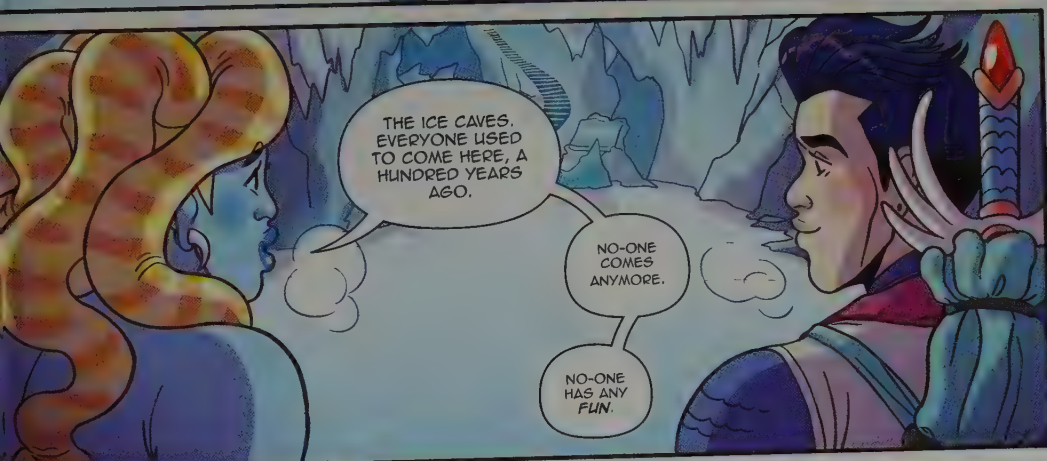
IT'S NOT
VERY GALLANT.



AND IT
TURNS OUT THAT
MONSTERS ARE
JUST... FOLKS YOU
HAVEN'T LEARNED
ABOUT YET.

I MEAN,
SOME MONSTERS
EAT PEOPLE.

BUT SO
DO SOME
PEOPLE.





MISTY,
WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN?

ARE WE
DOOMED?

I DON'T
WANT TO BE
DOOMED.

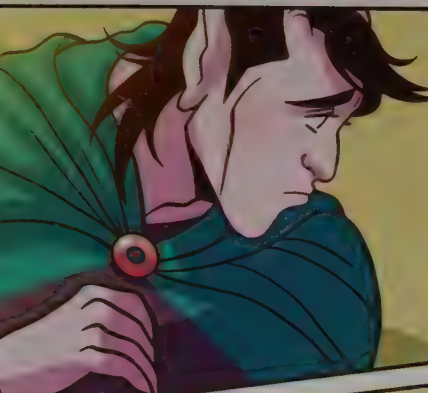


SHHH.
DON'T USE MY
NAME.

I HAVE TO
GET ROBIN TO
SNEAK ME OUT
OF GRIMOIRE.

SNEAK OUT?
BUT...

WHAT ABOUT
BADLUG? WHAT
ABOUT THE
SWORD?



I...



IT'S MY DAD,
FOGMOTH.

I HAVE
TO **SAVE**
HIM.



YEAH,
THAT FIGURES.





PEOPLE OF
GRIMOIRE, LISTEN
WELL!

THE PRINCESS
OF A *FOREIGN* LAND
LURKS AMONG YOU;
A PRINCESS WHOSE
FATHER *EVEN* NOW
MARCHES TO WAR
ON OUR HAPPY
PEOPLE!





YOU HAVE UNTIL
THE NEXT STRIKE OF THE
CLOCK TO SURRENDER
HER TO YOUR KING. IF
SHE DOES NOT COME
FORWARD, WE WILL
DESTROY EVERY
BUILDING IN THIS
SQUARE.

IF SHE
STILL DOES NOT
SURRENDER, WE WILL
DESTROY ANOTHER
NEIGHBORHOOD, AND
ANOTHER.



DO YOU
HEAR ME,
PRINCESS MISTY?
SURRENDER!

OR STAND
PROUD WHILE
GRIMOIRE BURNS
AROUND YOU.

A comic book page with four panels. The top panel shows Pete, a man with dark hair in a purple and white tunic, holding a large sword and shouting. A woman with blonde curly hair looks on in shock. The middle-left panel is a close-up of Pete's hands on the sword. The middle-right panel shows a woman with red hair and a pink cape looking up in surprise. The bottom panel shows Pete from behind, looking at a large, red, dragon-like creature with sharp teeth.

FIE ON THEE,
OLD WOMAN!

TELL YOUR
KING THAT HIS
DEATH DAY IS
UPON HIM! FOR I
AM PETE, PRINCE
OF AVENTURA, AND
I WILL BE HIS
UNDOING.

PETE,
NO!

PETE?

OH, PETE
YOU HAVE TO
HOLD THE
SWORD WITH
BOTH HANDS.

BRUTUS.

KILL
HIM.

FWOOOOOOM!

A-HA!
YOU'LL HAVE TO
DO BETTER THAN
THAT, LIZARD!

HAVEN'T
YOU HEARD THE
TALES? I'M
PETE THE
BRAVE—

I'M PETE
THE—

THWAK!

OOF!

OH!

TONK!

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

КРАШННННН!

NO!

АААААААААА!

PETE!

PETE!



DON'T DIE,
PETE. PLEASE
DON'T DIE. I
ONLY JUST MET
YOU.

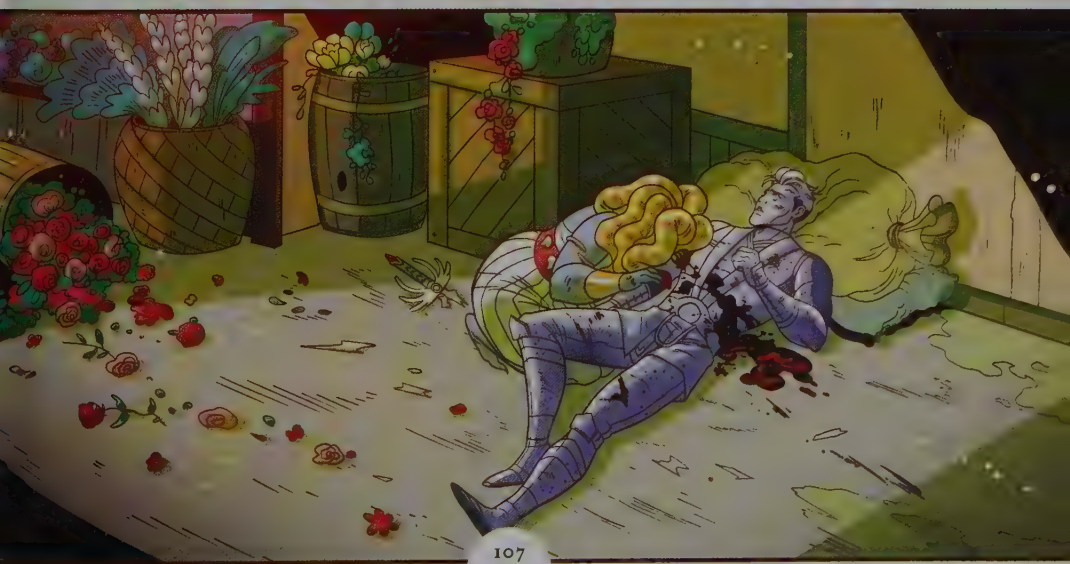
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE A
KNIGHT. OR A
PRINCE. YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO SLAY A
DRAGON.



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
THIS...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
DIE...





GOOD BOY,
BRUTUS.
GOOD BOY.

THE PRINCE IS
DEAD. THE
SWORD IS
DESTROYED.

THERE IS
NO HOPE.

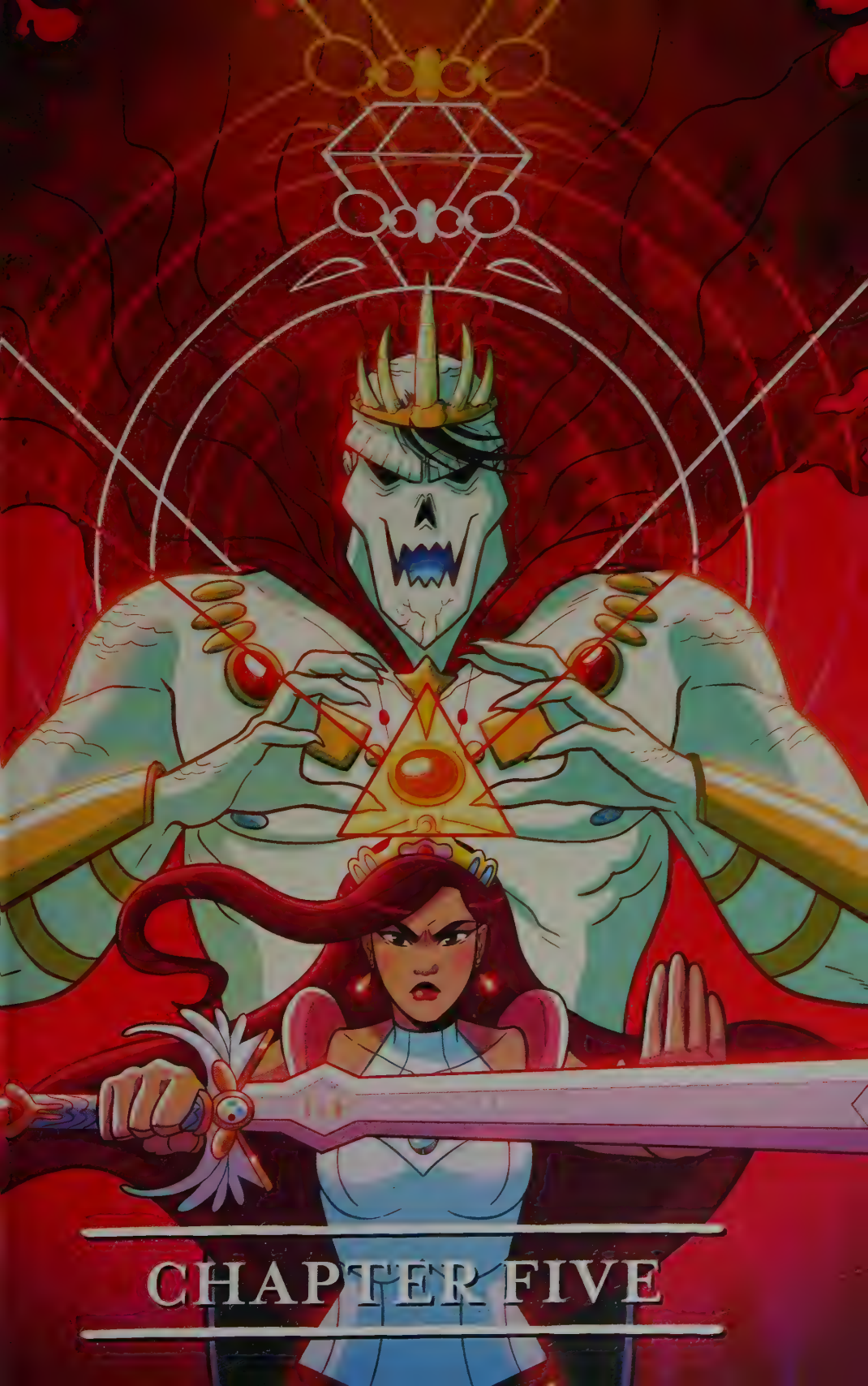
THERE IS
ONLY
BADLUS.



SURRENDER,
PRINCESS
MISTY.

YOU ARE
SOON TO BE
QUEEN OF
GRIMOIRE. YOU
DON'T WANT TO
WATCH YOUR
KINGDOM BURN.

NOT ON
YOUR
WEDDING
DAY.



CHAPTER FIVE





WHEN DO
WE *BURN* THIS
QUARTER,
WYRMOTHER?

YOUR BRIDE
HAS A FEW
MINUTES TO TURN
HERSELF IN.



AND THE
SWORD?
YOU HAVE
IT ALL?

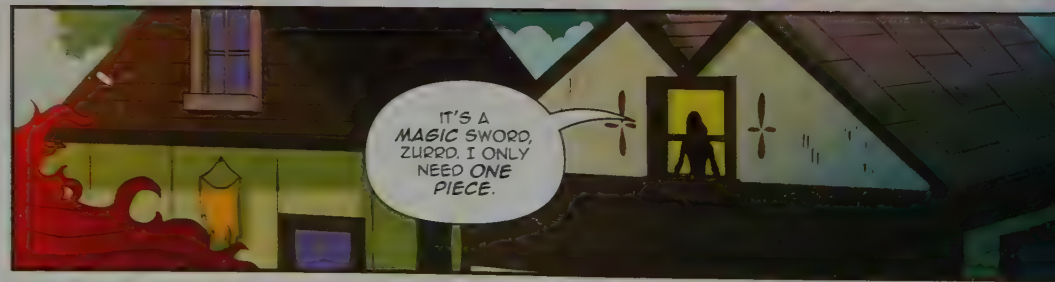
EVERY SHARD
THAT FELL, MY
LORD. *NOTHING*
CAN HARM YOU,
YOU ARE TRULY—

IMMORTAL.

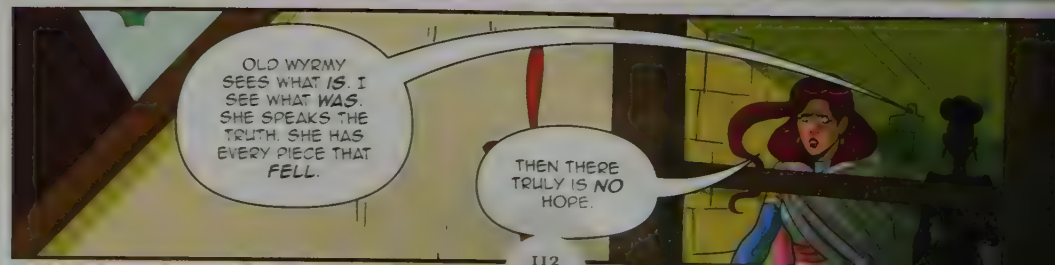


NYA-HA-HA-HA-HAA!

EVERY
SHARD?



IT'S A
MAGIC SWORD,
ZURRO. I ONLY
NEED ONE
PIECE.



OLD WYRM
SEES WHAT *IS*. I
SEE WHAT *WAS*.
SHE SPEAKS THE
TRUTH. SHE HAS
EVERY PIECE THAT
FELL.

THEN THERE
TRULY IS NO
HOPE.



The Dead-Eyed Despot
Backstage Alley

THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO.

EITHER
MISTY GIVES
HERSELF UP,
OR WE BURN
IN OUR
HOMES.

I SAY
WE FIND THIS
GIRL! HAND
HER OVER!

EVERYONE
NEEDS TO BE OUT
THERE BREAKING
COSWEBS AND
TURNING JUNG HEADS
'TIL WE CAPTURE THE
PRINCESS. IT'S HER
OR US.

NO,
MAYAM.

THAT'S
NOT THE
WAY.

IF YOU
CAN RAISE A
SEARCH PARTY,
YOU CAN RAISE
AN ARMY. YOU
CAN TAKE DOWN
A TYRANT.

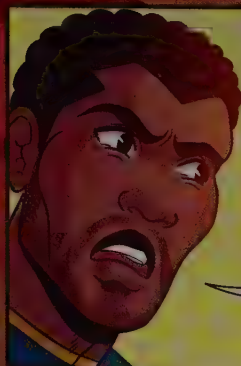
AND DO
WHAT GOOD
KING ROSIN
ASK HIM TO BE
NICER?

HE CAN'T
BE KILLED.
HE'LL STICK
WITH HIM.

SO WHO
SAYS WE
HAVE TO
KILL HIM?



IF YOU WANT
TO MAKE A
CHANGE IN THIS
CITY, YOU HAVE TO
BELIEVE IT CAN
HAPPEN.



WE LIVE
WITH HARDSHIP
AND INJUSTICE
EVERY DAY, AND
THEY TELL US
THAT'S HOW IT
HAS TO BE.

THEY WANT
US TO GIVE
UP WITHOUT
EVER TRYING.



BUT
EVERYTHING
CHANGES.
LOOK AT ME!

BEFORE BAOLUS,
MY GRANDPARENTS
LIVED IN A PALACE.
I GREW UP ON THE
SAME STREETS
AS YOU.



EMPIRES FALL.
CASTLES
CRUMBLE.

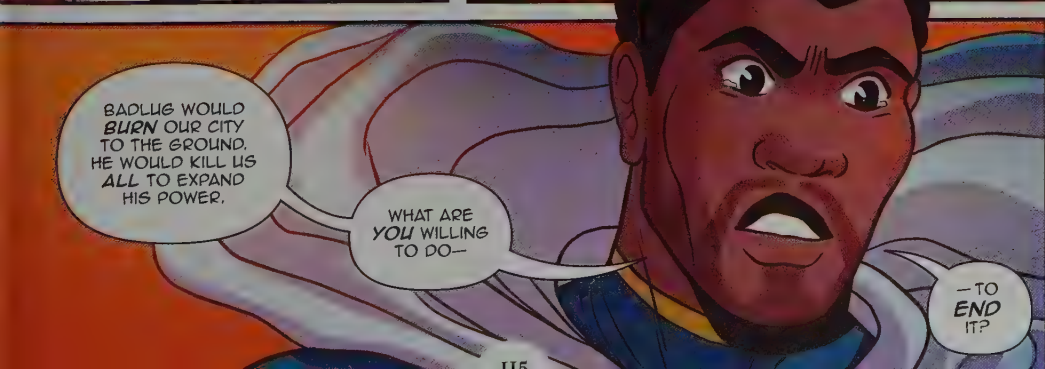
THE WORLD
WILL CHANGE,
AND WE CAN
CHANGE IT.



MAYBE WE
CAN'T KILL
BAOLUS.

BUT WE
CAN BRING
HIM DOWN.

WE CAN
KICK HIM
OFF HIS
THRONE.



BAOLUS WOULD
BURN OUR CITY
TO THE GROUND.
HE WOULD KILL US
ALL TO EXPAND
HIS POWER.

WHAT ARE
YOU WILLING
TO DO—

—TO
END
IT?





ALL RIGHT,
WYRMOTHER.

LIGHT THE
BONFIRE.



NOT SO
FAST,
BADLUE.



I WON'T
LET YOU HURT
THESE PEOPLE.
NOT IN MY
NAME.

IT'S TIME
TO END
THIS.

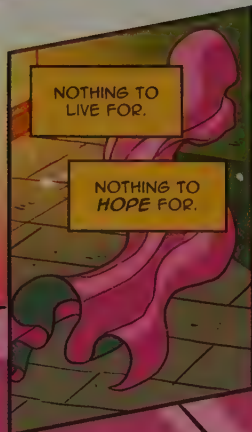


WELCOME
HOME, MY
BRIDE.

GUARDS,
CLAP HER IN
IRONS.

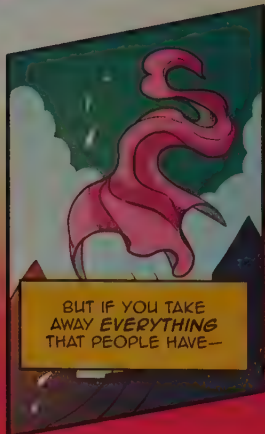


YES,
THIS IS HOW IT
WAS IN THE
KINGDOM OF
GRIMOIRE.

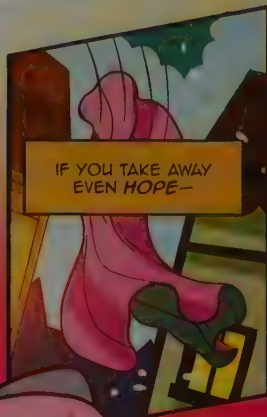


NOTHING TO
LIVE FOR.

NOTHING TO
HOPE FOR.



BUT IF YOU TAKE
AWAY **EVERYTHING**
THAT PEOPLE HAVE—

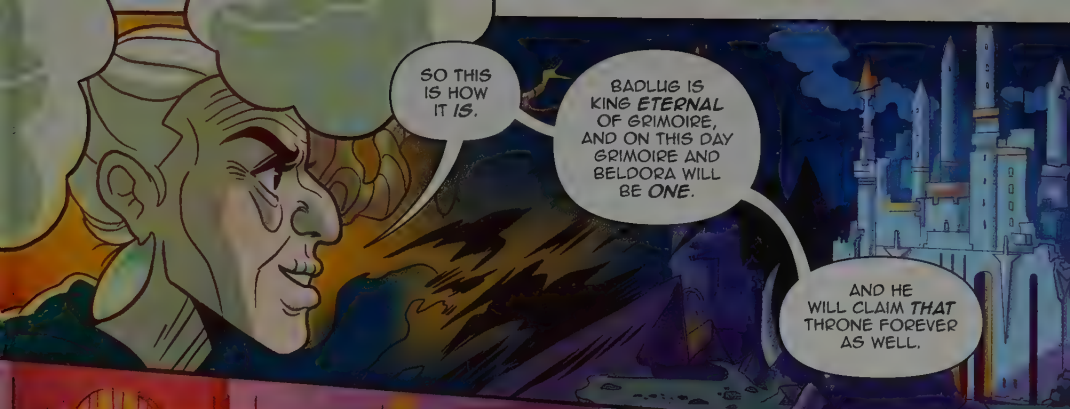


IF YOU TAKE AWAY
EVEN **HOPE**—

YOU'LL LEARN THAT ALL
THEY HAVE LEFT—



—IS SOMETHING
TO FIGHT FOR.



SO THIS
IS HOW
IT IS.

BADLUG IS
KING *ETERNAL*
OF GRIMOIRE,
AND ON THIS DAY
GRIMOIRE AND
BELDORA WILL
BE *ONE*.

AND HE
WILL CLAIM *THAT*
THRONE FOREVER
AS WELL.



AND FROM THERE,
OTHER WIVES,
OTHER KINGDOMS

IT ALL
BEGINS HERE

YOU
MUSTN'T BE
SO *EMOTIONAL*,
MY DEAR. YOU'LL
SPOIL YOUR
PRETTY FACE.

AND BESIDES,
AS MY QUEEN,
YOU WILL TREATED
VERY WELL.



I EVEN
BROUGHT YOU
A WEDDING
GIFT.



GORGA!



GORGA, I
THOUGHT I'D
NEVER SEE
YOU AGAIN.

HE'S GIVING
ME A DAY. HE'LL
EXECUTE ME
TOMORROW.



I BROUGHT
YOU SOMETHING,
MISTY. IT'S SILK
FROM YOUR
KINGDOM.

I THOUGHT,
EVEN IF THE
WORST
HAPPENS—

YOU SHOULD
BE WHO YOU ARE,
NOT WHO HE
WANTS YOU
TO BE.



OH,
GORGA.

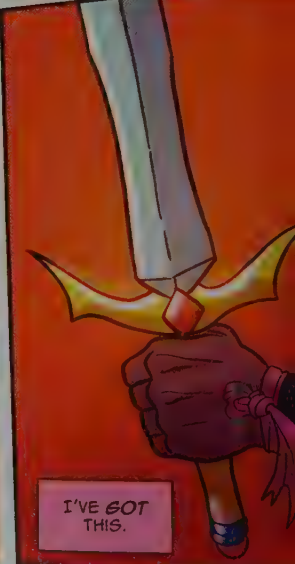
I'VE NEVER
HAD A FRIEND
LIKE YOU.



AND I PROMISE YOU,
GORGA—



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
DIE TOMORROW.



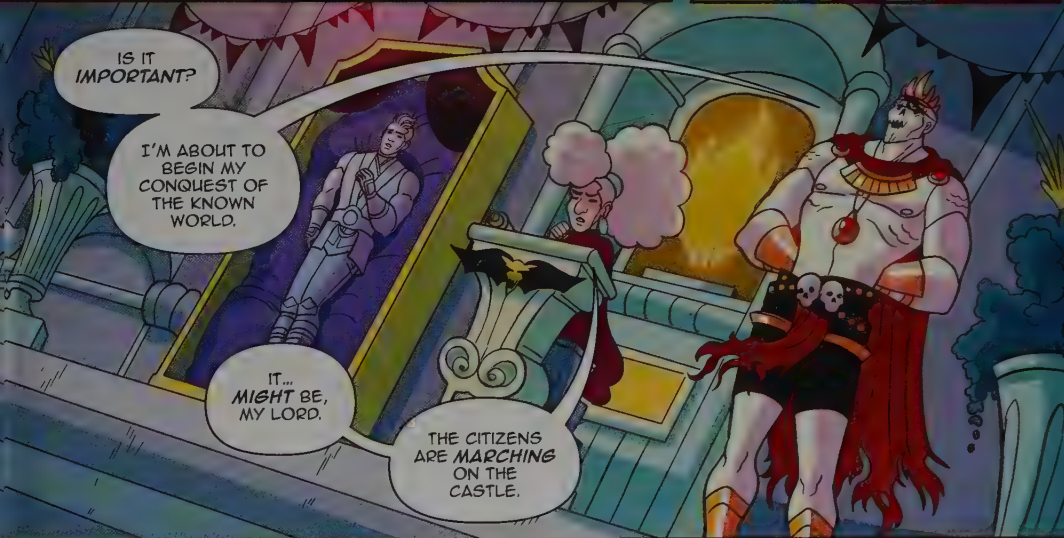
I'VE GOT
THIS.



ODD.

SOMETHING IS OCCURRING, MY LORD.

SNIFF
SNIFF



IS IT IMPORTANT?

I'M ABOUT TO BEGIN MY CONQUEST OF THE KNOWN WORLD.

IT... MIGHT BE, MY LORD.

THE CITIZENS ARE MARCHING ON THE CASTLE.



LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH, WYRMOTHER.

I'LL SLAUGHTER THEM WHEN WE'RE DONE.









HOW WILL THE
HISTORY BOOKS
WRITE ABOUT **THIS**,
I WONDER?

A PEOPLE WHO
TURNED ON THEIR
KING THE VERY DAY
HIS IMMORTALITY
WAS AFFIRMED.



WILL THEY SAY
YOU WERE
BRAVE?

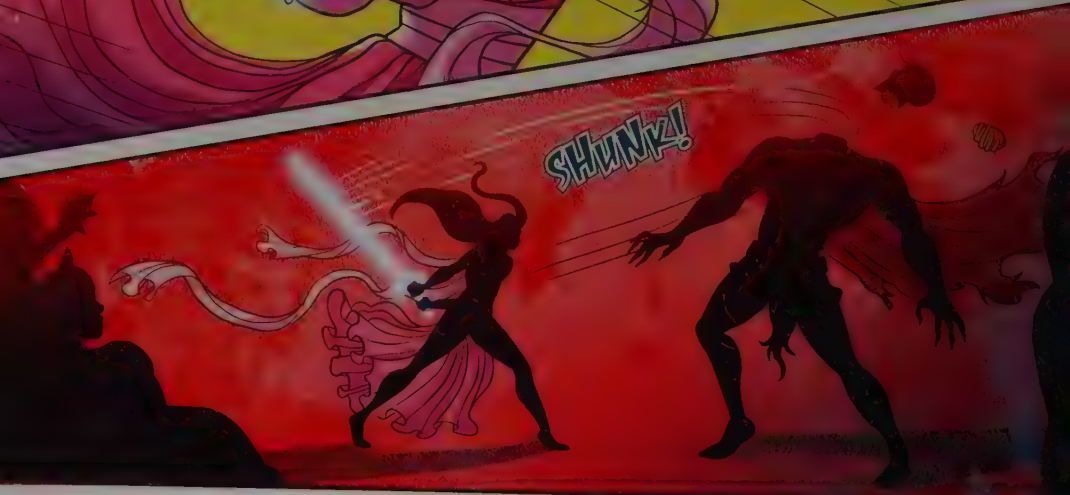
WILL THEY SAY
YOU WERE
NOBLE?

WILL THEY SAY
IT WAS A **GOOD**
WAY TO DIE?



OR WILL
THEY SAY
NOTHING,
BECAUSE I'VE
EXECUTED THE
HISTORIANS?

YOUR
MISTAKE,
BADLUG!





PFFFF.

THAT'S FOR
MY MOM,
JERK.



WHAT
THE--!?

THE HISTORY BOOKS WILL
SAY THAT THE WORLD WAS
FOREVER CHANGED—

ON THE DAY THAT
ARTEMISIA OF
BELDORA—

BECAME THE
NEW KINS OF
GRIMOIRE.



THIS IS
HOW IT WILL
BE, SISTER.

I DON'T NEED
MY SECOND
SIGHT TO TELL
YOU THAT.

Grimoire
The day after the battle.

YOU HAD YOUR
MOMENT, SEEGUN.
BUT YOU DIDN'T
PLAN AHEAD.

AND
YOU NEVER
LEARNED A
THING.

ALL RIGHT,
YOU NINNIES. HAVE
ME TORTURED IF
YOU MUST, BUT
DON'T MAKE ME
LISTEN TO YOUR
BLOATING.



JUST PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
LOOK AFTER
MY BOY.

LOOK
AFTER MY
BRUTUS.



KNOCK!

KNOCK!

HELLOOO!
I BROUGHT
SOME CLEAN
SHEETS.



YOU'RE NOT
AN ATTENDANT
NOW, LADY
GORGA. YOU HAVE
BETTER THINGS
TO DO.

YUP. SORRY.
OF COURSE!

I'LL SEE
YOU AT THE
MEETING?

WE'LL BE THERE, LADY.

NOW GO SEE TO YOUR
BOY. SEE HOW HE'S
ADJUSTING.

PETE?

ARE YOU
OKAY?

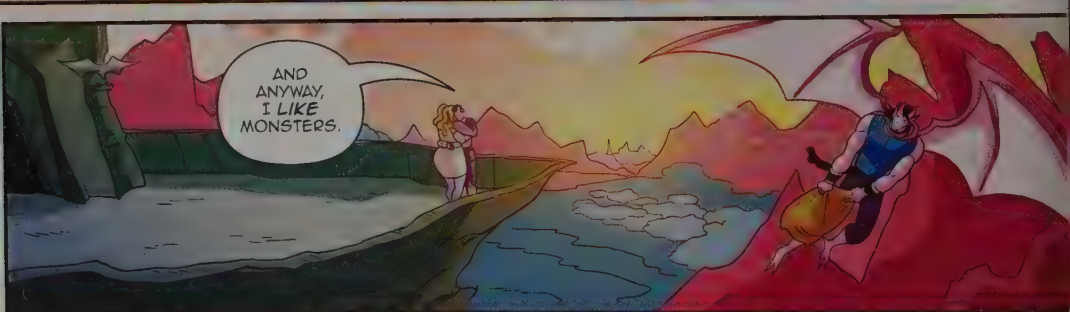
HEY,
GORG.

I'M OK,
I JUST—

MY DAD
SENT ME A
MESSAGE BY
FLYING FOX.

HE TOLD
ME I CAN
NEVER COME
HOME.

NOT NOW
THAT I'M A
MONSTER.





BRUTUS
BOILS THE
SOUP IF WE
LEAVE HIM
UNATTENDED.

YOUR BREAD
ROLLS ARE
AMAZING,
BY THE WAY.

EVERYONE
SAYS SO.

AW.
YOU'RE SO
SWEET.



ARTEMISIA?

WHO ARE
ALL THESE
PEOPLE?

THE
CITIZENS,
DAD.

IN THE NEW
GRIMOIRE,
NO-ONE
GOES
HUNGRY.



MISTY,
YOU CAN'T
JUST GIVE
FOOD AWAY.

I CAN.
I'M IN
CHARGE.

FOR
NOW,
ANYWAY.



AH,
ABOUT THAT,
DEAREST. I WAS
THINKING WE
COULD ALL HEAD
BACK TO BELDORA
TOMORROW—

DAD.
I'M THE **QUEEN**
HERE NOW. OR
KING, OR
WHATEVER.

I CAN'T
JUST
LEAVE.



WELL, YOU'VE
NEVER LIKED
PEOPLE TELLING
YOU WHAT YOU
HAVE TO BE.

THAT'S
TRUE.

AND I NEVER
LIKED PEOPLE
TELLING ME WHAT
I CAN'T BE.



THAT'S WHY
I HAVE
TO STICK
AROUND.

I'M NOT LEAVING
GRIMOIRE UNTIL
EVERYONE GETS
A SAY IN WHAT
THEY WANT IT TO
BE. AND WHO THEY
WANT IN CHARGE.



ARTEMISIA!
A DEMOCRACY?

IF ONE
OF THE SEVEN...
NINE? ... KINGDOMS
HAS DEMOCRACY,
THEY'RE ALL
GOING TO
WANT IT!

WELL,
YOU'D BETTER
GET READY,
DAD.

ONCE I'M
FINISHED HERE,
I AM COMING
HOME—



AND I'M BRINGING
THE FUTURE WITH ME.



THAT GIRL!
DOESN'T SHE
THINK ABOUT
PROTOCOL?
TRADITION?

I THINK SHE
THINKS ABOUT
THOSE THINGS A
LOT, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

COME TAKE
A SEAT FOR
THE MEETING!
EVERYONE'S
WELCOME.



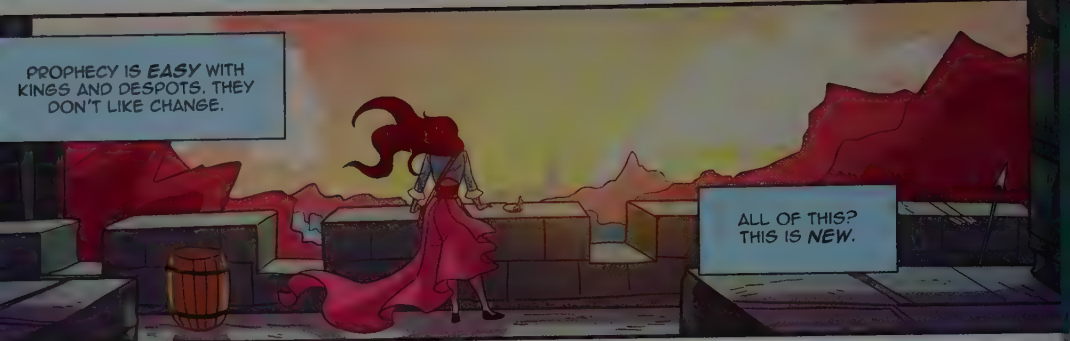
HEY G!
WHERE'S
MISTY?

AGGRA! HI!
JUST TAKING A
MINUTE. SHE'LL BE
RIGHT HERE.



YOU PROBABLY
DON'T EVEN NEED
TO BE HERE,
RIGHT? YOU
ALREADY KNOW
HOW THIS GOES.

FUNNY THING,
MILADY. EVER SINCE
I CAME BACK TO
GRIMOIRE, I DON'T
KNOW A THING
ABOUT THE
FUTURE.



PROPHECY IS *EASY* WITH
KINGS AND DESPOTS. THEY
DON'T LIKE CHANGE.

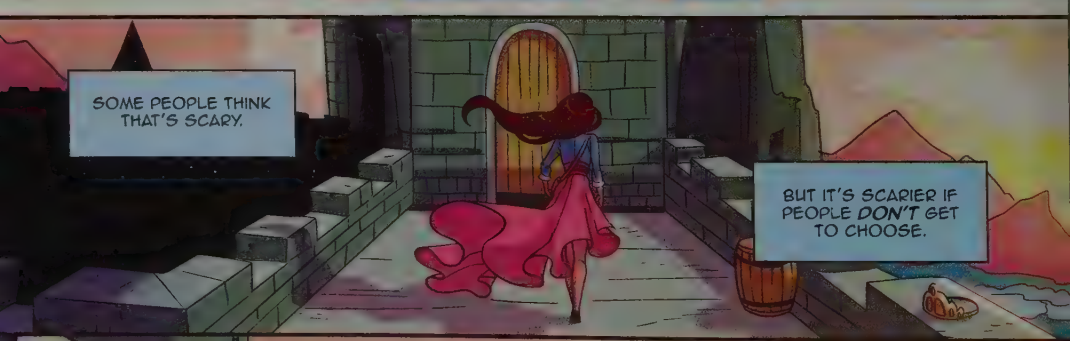
ALL OF THIS?
THIS IS NEW.



THE PAST IS A *LANDSCAPE*,
LITTERED WITH *KINGS* AND
FALLEN ARMIES. RUINS OF
PALACES, BORDERS *BURIED*
WITH FRESH-TURNED MUD.



BUT IF YOU DON'T REPEAT
THE *SAME* MISTAKES, IF
YOU LET PEOPLE *CHOOSE*
WHAT THEY WANT TO BE,
THE FUTURE IS A
MYSTERY, EVEN TO ME.



SOME PEOPLE THINK
THAT'S SCARY.

BUT IT'S SCARIER IF
PEOPLE *DON'T* GET
TO CHOOSE.



THE FUTURE IS A
LANDSCAPE AS
WELL, AND WE CAN
BUILD *WHATEVER* WE
LIKE THERE.

WE DON'T HAVE TO
BUILD ANOTHER
CASTLE.

The end.



COVER GALLERY



ANOTHER CASTLE #1 INCENTIVE COVER
BY REVE KOH



ANOTHER CASTLE #1 COMICS PRO
EXCLUSIVE COVER BY MEREDITH MCLAREN



ANOTHER CASTLE OF PRIDE
EXCLUSIVE COVER BY LEILA DEL DUCA



ANOTHER CASTLE #1 EMERALD CITY COMICON
EXCLUSIVE COVER BY MARGUERITE SAUVAGE



ANOTHER CATTLE! JESSE L. NESCOMBE
EXCLUSIVE COVER BY CAT FARMER





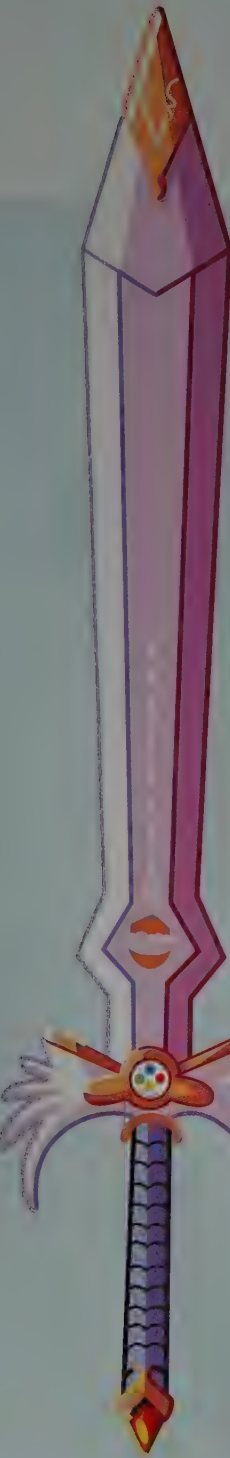
ANOTHER CASTLE 3 INCENTIVE COVER
BY MILDRED LOUIS



ANOTHER CASTLE-MIDGENTIVE LOVER
BY TRUNCLES



ANOTHER CASTLE 75 INCENTIVE COVER
BY KRIS ANKI



INTERVIEW WITH

Andrew Wheeler & Paulina Ganucheau

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR *ANOTHER CASTLE*, BOTH IN THE STORY AND THE ART?

ANDREW WHEELER: As you might guess from the title, it started with video games, and how the princess is always supposedly just waiting at the castle to be rescued. I didn't like that idea; I wanted to know what else the princess might be up to while the hero fights his way toward the castle. But Misty is the hero of this story, and the only thing she's waiting for is her sword.

PAULINA GANUCHEAU: Jeez, so much stuff! I think most things I love always show a bit in my work. Specifically, though, I remember looking at the *Tangled* art book a LOT when I started the character designs. I mean, how can you go wrong with the fluidity of Glen Keane? But other inspirations are *Dragon Age*, *Legend of Zelda*, *Magic Knight Rayearth*, and a lot of historical art, surprisingly.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU LEARNED FROM MAKING *ANOTHER CASTLE*?

AW: I learned that this is so much fun. Working with Paulina, working with the Oni crew, and having this idea turn into something I can share with the world, it's incredibly exciting!

PG: That I still love princesses as much as I did when I was a five-year-old and how amazing it is to draw a feminine pink princess be completely fierce. Also, I learned that Andrew is crazy good at writing this comic, haha.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF CREATING THE COMIC?

AW: Getting the pages back, definitely. Always so gorgeous! But also, whenever Paulina gets to design another character, I really love that. Her costumes and her designs are phenomenal. I always think I know what these characters look like in my head, and then I get Paulina's version, and I think, "Nope, that's what they look like."

PG: Character building is definitely up there for me, but also just showing the relationships between the characters. Acting and emotion is so crazy important for me. I love it.

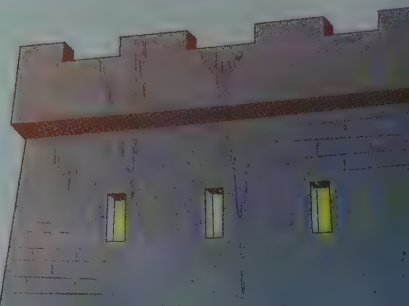
IF YOU LIVED IN BELDORA OR GRIMOIRE, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE?

AW: Oh boy. Maybe I'd try my hand at being a bard in Beldora? I bet the squires all swoon for a good bard.

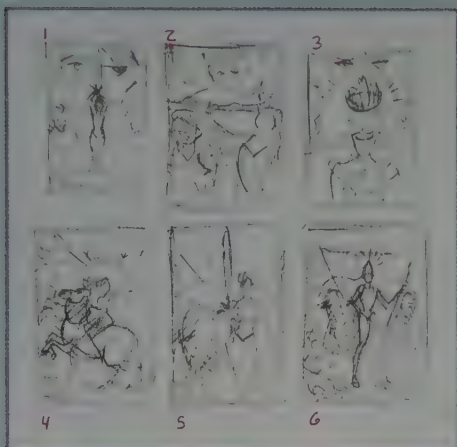
PG: I'd be Misty's best friend back in Beldora that you never see 'cause she's too busy drawing tapestries of the kingdom's history.

Misty: "Hey, you want to hang out today?"

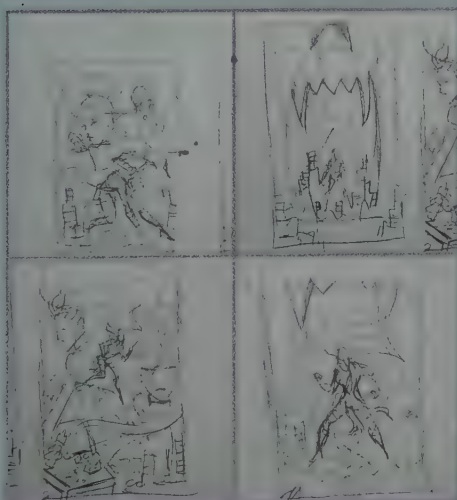
Me: "Naw, girl, I'm on a deadline. Go save the kingdom, tho. Love ya!"



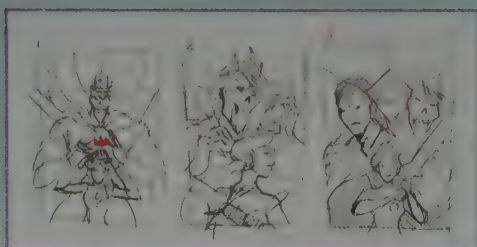
SHEDDING LIGHT ON How a Cover is Created



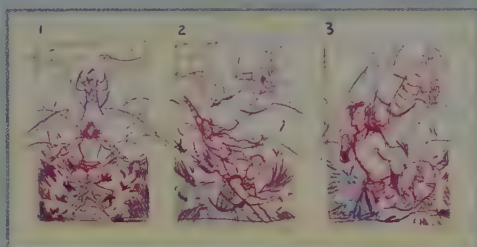
We went through a lot of ideas before deciding on the design for the cover of the first issue, but in the end, we settled on idea #1!



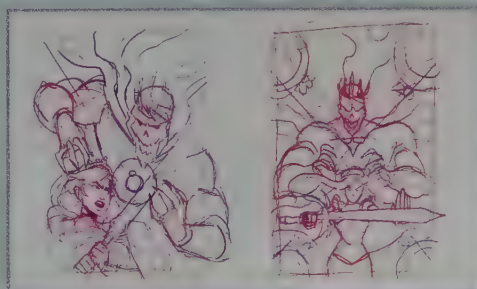
The cover sketches for issue #2! We decided to use sketch #4, since it was very dynamic and also included our three main characters for that issue.



Cover ideas for issue #3. We went with idea #3, but swapped out Badlug for wonderful Prince Pete.



Cover ideas for issue #4. We ended up going with #2, which we thought was the most exciting.

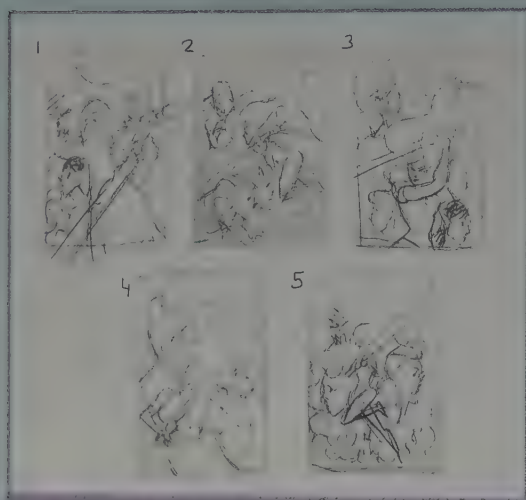


Cover ideas for issue #5. We used the second idea, except it showed Marty in a stretcher position.

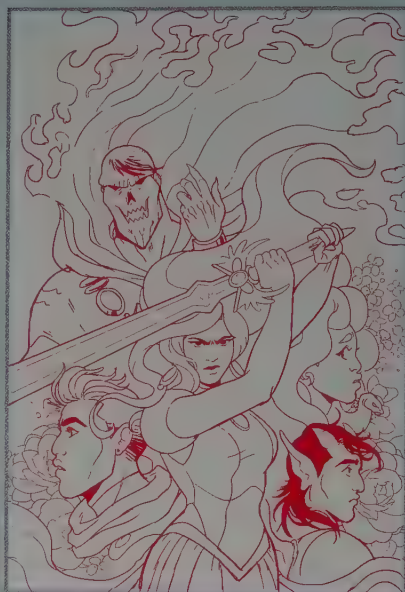


CREATING A COVER

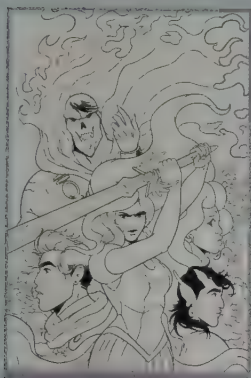
Step-by-Step



“I tried a bunch of different ideas.”



“Then, you lit it.”



“Then, you lit it.”



“Then, you lit it.”

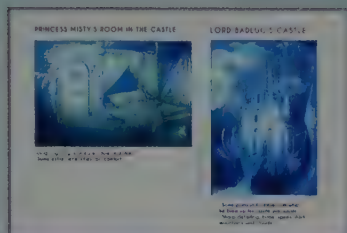


“Then, you lit it.”



DESIGN PROCESS

Characters & Set



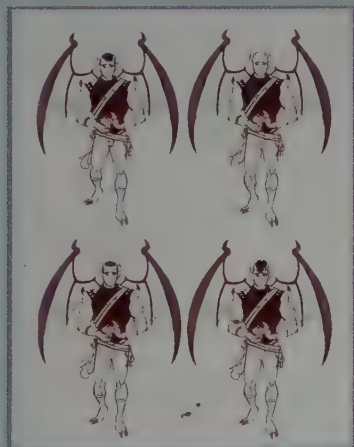
Before we started work on the book, we needed to figure out what the locations were going to look like.



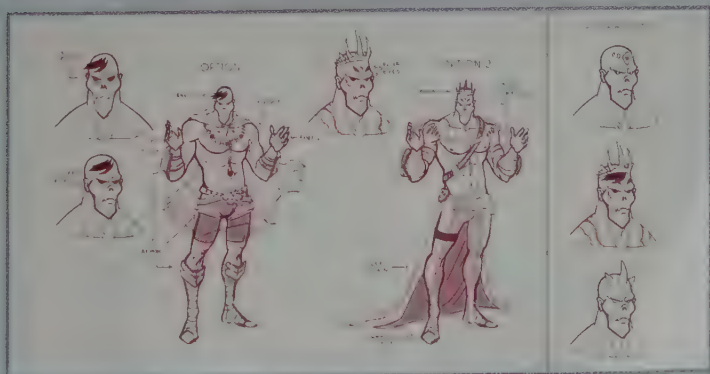
Some ideas for Leveler, inspired by video games. Leveler is a very important part of the book, so we wanted to make sure its design was distinct and significant.



An early design for Misty's wedding dress.



We went through a lot of designs for our characters.

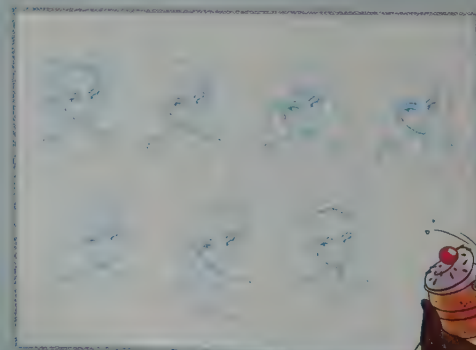


DESIGN PROCESS

Characters & Set



When you publish a comic book, readers can preorder it through their local comic shops by using an online code. This is the code for *Another Little Piece of It*.





@WHEELER



ANDREW WHEELER is an award-winning comics writer and editor whose works include the *Dungeons & Dragons Young Adventurer's Guides*, *Wonder Woman: Agent of Peace*, the queer superhero series *Freelance*, and *Shout Out*, the Prism-nominated LGBTQ+ anthology for young readers. Andrew was born in Hastings, England, and now lives in Toronto with thousands of raccoons.



@PLINAGANUCHEAU



PAULINA GANUCHEAU is a comic artist and illustrator based wherever her computer lives. She is the creator of *Lemon Bird*, with an original graphic novel out in 2021, and co-creator of *Zodiac Starforce*, published by Dark Horse Comics. Her hobbies include watching pro-wrestling, cloud photography, and following cats on Instagram.



@JENVYJAMS



JENNY VY TRAN is a graphic designer, cookie aficionado, and knows a lot of big words thanks to watching every episode of *Frasier*. She discovered her love for drawing at the age of five, but forgot about it until five years ago. She has worked on other Oni Press books such as *Hopeless Savages Break* and *The Lion Of Rora*.

MORE MYSTICAL & MYTHICAL ADVENTURES FROM ONI PRESS!



MOONCAKES

By Suzanne Walker and Wendy Xu

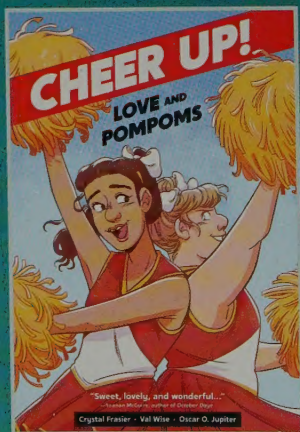
A story of love and demons, family and witchcraft. Nova Huang knows more about magic than your average teen witch. One fateful night, she follows reports of a white wolf into the woods and comes across the unexpected: her childhood crush, Tam Lang, battling a horse demon in the woods.



PAX SAMSON

By Rashad Doucet and Jason Reeves

The Cookout is the first volume in a new action-packed, modern fantasy trilogy that depicts a world struggling to find peace in the midst of threats, and a young superhero chef torn between following his passion and following in his family's footsteps.



CHEER UP! LOVE AND POMPOMS

By Crystal Frasier and Val Wise

Through the rigors of squad training and amped-up social pressures (not to mention microaggressions and other queer youth problems), two girls, Annie and Bebe, rekindle a friendship they thought they'd lost and discover there may be other, sweeter feelings springing up between them.



THE BLACK MAGE

By Daniel Barnes and D.J. Kirkland

When a historically white wizarding school opens doors to its first-ever black student, everyone believes that the wizarding community is finally taking its crucial steps toward inclusivity. Or is it?



For more information on these and other fine Oni Press comic books and graphic novels, visit www.onipress.com. To find a comic specialty store in your area, visit www.comicshops.us

"In the tradition of comic and manga faves *Princeless* and *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, writer Andrew Wheeler and artist Paulina Gagliardi isn't just saving herself, but saving her kingdom."

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"Wheeler and Ganucheau have created a bright and fun universe that is easy to get lost in and makes you root for your heroes right off the bat. No apologies here, the princess you seek is in *Another Castle*." —GRAPHIC POLICY

What does it mean to be a hero? A magical sword? A prophecy? What does it mean to be a leader? A royal title? A kingdom to lead? Misty is a Princess, but does that make her a damsel or a leader? Misty has a Prince, but does that make him the hero?

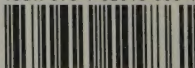
When the mystical sword that can defeat Beldora's sworn enemy, Lord Badlug King of Grimoire, Princess Misty decides to go on a mission to retrieve it herself. Misty knows her mission is to destroy Lord Badlug, but what happens to the court of Grimoire afterward? As Misty learns of the lives of Grimoire's citizens, like her new friends Gorga, Fogmoth, and Robin, she realizes overthrowing an evil King isn't as simple as it seems.



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